

**Question for written answer P-9070/2010
to the Commission**
Rule 117
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Subject: Cross-border transport by taxi between Germany and France

In the border area between the Saarland and France, there is a high level of cross-border mobility. Not everyone can always rely on their own car, or public transport, to cross the border. People travelling in the evening or at night in particular, and residents of rural areas in general, must often use taxis.

German taxi operators in the border area, however, have a problem with transporting passengers across the border to or from France. They risk fines, and in some cases even the confiscation of their vehicle, if they do not have a French taxi permit. To obtain this permit, however, they would need business premises in France and a French tax number. This would lead to disproportionately high operating costs for the taxi firms concerned.

There is no EU directive governing cross-border transport by taxi. There is a bilateral agreement on transport to and from airports, but so far there is no general bilateral agreement on cross-border transport by taxi between France and Germany. Instances of transport agreements which include cross-border transport by taxi exist between Germany and Luxembourg and between Germany and Austria. However, according to my information, efforts to conclude such an agreement between Germany and France have so far failed owing to French opposition.

Since cross-border links in the region are increasing, this is a problem for taxi operators in the border region, who are, strictly speaking, only allowed to transport passengers as far as the border, where they must drop them off. However, it is not only taxi operators which suffer under the current inconvenient legal situation, but also potential passengers, who are in some cases unable to be driven across the border by German taxi companies for the above reasons.

What possible solutions does the Commission see to this legal situation, which is unsatisfactory for all concerned, particularly in view of the principle of the freedom to provide services in the EU?