

**Question for written answer P-007042/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Regina Bastos (PPE)

Subject: Car traffic: mandatory national rules within the European area

Legislation requiring drivers to carry a breathalyser in their vehicle entered into force in France at the beginning of July 2012. Under that legislation, tourists travelling in France in a hired car, no matter where they might have rented it, or in their own vehicle have to take a breathalyser with them. The penalty for non-compliance is a fine.

The use of signs and the requirement to carry spare lamp bulbs or first-aid kits, to name just some examples, are not regulated at EU level. That being the case:

1. Can a Member State require given equipment to be carried in a vehicle registered in another Member State when that equipment is not compulsory in the country of registration?
2. Is France allowed to insist that breathalysers be carried in vehicles registered in other Member States and to fine drivers who do not have them?
3. If the answer is no, what steps will the Commission take to make France end the above practice, and what should drivers do to escape a fine for breaking a rule that they do not have to observe?