

**Question for written answer P-003828/2014  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

**Aldo Patriciello (PPE)**

Subject: Free movement of EU-registered private cars in Belgium

It often happens that drivers of vehicles with a foreign (i.e. non-Belgian) number-plate are stopped by the police, incur a penalty, or are prevented from continuing their journey.

There are many expatriates living in Belgium, possibly temporarily, who have come with their private cars (duly registered in another Member State); given that they live in Belgium, they are debarred, under the Belgian rules, from driving their own vehicles.

The behaviour of the Belgian authorities is blatantly at odds with the Convention of the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in particular Articles 6 and 8 thereof.

The Belgian legislation on car registration and the way in which it is enforced contravene EU rules (Articles 18, 20, 49, 56, and 63 of the TFEU, as has recently been confirmed by the Court of Justice rulings in Joined Cases C-578/10 to C-580/10 (van Putten) and in Case C-5/13 (Kovacs)): the reason is that persons living in Belgium are required to register their private vehicles, whether or not these are used regularly (Article 2(1) of the relevant royal decree stipulates that no car can be put into service unless it has a Belgian number-plate; under Article 3(1), persons living in Belgium who intend to drive their own vehicle have to have it entered in the national register, even if it is already registered in another Member State).

What this situation amounts to is a direct infringement of EU rules by the Belgian authorities.

Does the Commission not believe that it should call upon the Belgian authorities to observe European rules and help them weigh up all possible solutions enabling citizens of other Member States, even though they might be living temporarily in Belgium, to drive their own vehicles, if these are properly registered in an EU country?