

EN
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Answer given by Ms Vălean
on behalf of the European Commission
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Directive 2006/126/EC on driving licences¹ sets out, in its Annex III, the minimum standards of physical and mental fitness required for driving a motor vehicle. According to its Article 4, Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) drivers must hold a category C driving licence and must comply with the standards required for professional drivers (Group 2).

The minimum standards relating to epilepsy are set out in point 12 of Annex III to the Directive, with particular requirements for Group 2 drivers established in points 12.10 to 12.14 of the same Annex. In particular, point 12.14 of Annex III requires, as regards epilepsy, that Group 2 drivers have achieved 10 years freedom from further seizures without the aid of anti-epileptic drugs. Point 12.14 also provides that '*National authorities may allow drivers with recognised good prognostic indicators to drive sooner.*'

This possibility is, however, left to the discretion of the national authorities and their medical experts, which may make use of it or not, as an element of their road safety policy. In this context, the Swedish Transport Agency has now taken the decision to apply the default standard requirement of 10 seizure-free years without epileptic medication.

In light of the above, the Commission concludes that the Swedish Transport Agency's application of Directive 2006/126/EC, as amended by Directive 2009/113/EC, concerning epilepsy and HGV drivers is compatible with the rules on minimum standards of physical and mental fitness for driving a vehicle, as set out in Annex III to that Directive.

¹ Directive 2006/126/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on driving licences (OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 18).