

**Priority question for written answer P-002471/2020
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Angel Dzhambazki

Subject: Mobility Package – contentious texts

On 7 April, the Council ratified the decision taken by Coreper for the process of adoption and enactment of the Mobility Package to be voted upon and continue. The extraordinarily contentious and lobby-driven texts contained in this package provide for the compulsory return of lorries and their drivers to their home countries for several weeks, and mandatory rest periods outside the cab, in conditions where no facilities or secure parking areas have been constructed. Given the current pandemic, though, Bulgarian drivers are transporting, under police escort, supplies of syringes, medicines, masks, disinfectants and ventilators between, for example, Belgium and France. At present, 70% of lorries operating in Western Europe have licence plates from Poland, Romanian, Bulgaria or the Baltic countries. Today, drivers can be at the wheel for over 9 hours. They are currently only taking their daily, weekly and other kinds of rest periods in their cabs.

Could the Commission state:

1. Whether it does not consider that since funding is now being freed up for SMEs across the EU, there is a pressing need to withdraw the proposals in this package in order to safeguard the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of families?
2. Why Bulgarian, Romanian, Polish, etc. carriers' potentials are being harnessed when they are needed, but once the pandemic is over they will be left to their fates?