

Priority question for written answer P-001153/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
Søren Gade (Renew)

Subject: Derogation for the transport of straw and hay

The transport of goods within the EU is very expensive and the capacities are low, which is further complicated by the fact that rules concerning road transportation are not harmonised across the Member States. This causes problems for the effective management and transportation of many goods, in particular goods that are transported in high volumes, but have a low weight, such as straw and hay.

An increase in the allowed height, length and weight of lorries together with a harmonisation of the rules would mitigate this problem. This would simultaneously ease the shortage of drivers, which has only got worse as a result of the war in Ukraine. Furthermore, having fewer lorries on the road would reduce the carbon emissions of the transport sector, but still deliver the same amount of goods.

Immediate action is needed to ensure that goods such as straw and hay can continue to be delivered as raw materials to produce animal feed and increase biogas production.

1. Is the Commission intending to introduce a provisional exemption from the rules on the height, weight and length of road transportation vehicles in order to mitigate these urgent issues?
2. Is it intending to harmonise transportation rules across the Member States to ensure transparency, better management and a level playing field?