

**Question for written answer E-001659/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Request for clarification of legal exemptions for Ukrainian lorry drivers transiting Romania

In June, an update and extension of the Road Transport Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine was officially signed in Brussels. Thanks to this agreement, Ukrainian exports to Member States have increased, resulting in huge dissatisfaction among Romanian carriers. According to their representatives, the Commission has concluded that Ukrainian lorry drivers can now only be stopped at customs or during traffic checks under exceptional circumstances. Ukrainian transport operators are no longer subject to routine checks to verify compliance with legal requirements. These exemptions raise concerns about unequal treatment compared to other transport operators.

1. Given that Romanian carriers, as well as foreign carriers transiting Romania, are required to comply with all legal regulations and face sanctions for non-compliance, why are Ukrainian transport operators not held to the same legal standards?
2. Considering that authorities allow lorries transporting goods from Ukraine to transit freely, who ensures that these carriers are not involved in human trafficking, drug smuggling or other illegal activities?
3. Given that Ukrainian lorry drivers appear to be exempt from the rules and general regulatory standards, how does the Commission consider this situation to be compatible with the principles of fairness, the right to safety and fair competition?

Submitted: 9.9.2024