

Question for written answer E-003479/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Enforcement of outstanding traffic fines from users of leased vehicles in the Czech Republic

For several years now, legislation has been in force in the Czech Republic which allows the vehicle owner to be held liable for a traffic offence where the actual driver cannot be identified. This measure is intended to facilitate the enforcement of fines for offences recorded by automated traffic enforcement systems.

However, this leads to a problem in the case of leased vehicles. In such cases, if the actual driver cannot be identified, the fine may be charged to the lessor's account. If a leasing company has a large number of vehicles and many unpaid fines, this can result in a significant debt.

During a roadside check, the Czech police may demand payment not only of the driver's outstanding fines, but also of any arrears attributed to the account of the operator of the vehicle being checked (the lessor). If the arrears are not settled on the spot, the authorities may impound the number plates.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of this mechanism, and does it feel that it could restrict EU rights and freedoms, in particular the free movement of persons and services?
2. Is the procedure whereby an EU citizen, using a leased car and subject to a roadside check in the Czech Republic, may be required to pay outstanding fines for traffic offences which they did not commit – on the grounds that these fines have been attributed to the lessor's account – compatible with the principles of proportionality and individual liability?
3. Do provisions involving the enforcement of outstanding debts against the user of a vehicle on account of liabilities attributed to the lessor fall within the scope of Directive 2015/413?

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