

**Priority question for written answer P-002907/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Introduction of the new smart tachograph (version 2)

The introduction of a new version of the smart tachograph (smart tachograph version 2) is a critical step in modernising international transport. Transport operators have to retrofit their fleets of cross-border operation vehicles, while the sector faces many other challenges, such as complex administrative requirements, long border delays, abusive fines and a global driver shortage. Despite the progress of the retrofitting process and the willingness of the companies to comply, the issues with tachograph availability due to insufficient supply, coupled with limited workshop capacity and a shortage of qualified technicians, have further slowed the process. The available data shows that if transport operators who were unable to retrofit their vehicles within the deadlines suspended their cross-border operations, we would suffer significant market capacity challenge. In order to prevent a potential crisis in the transportation of goods and to ensure a fair transition by giving companies sufficient time to adapt to these new technologies, it is essential to guarantee an extension of the current deadlines, currently set for 31 December 2024 and 18 August 2025, and to provide a necessary and adequate grace period for compliance of at least six months.

Will the Commission protect European business and support the transport operators by introducing such a grace period?

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