

EN

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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.11.2024)

Driving licence tourism, i.e. the practice of changing residence for the purpose of acquiring a driving licence in another Member State, is a matter of concern for the Commission. The current Driving Licence Directive (2006/126/EC)¹ sets out clear rules on the issuance (including residence requirements) and the mutual recognition of driving licences which reduce the risk of driving licence fraud and driving licence tourism, as the ex-post evaluation of that Directive² has shown.

The Commission's proposal³ for a revision of the Directive further contributes to that policy objective. In particular, it is intended to strengthen the EU network for the exchange of information on driving licences, RESPER, which, since its introduction, has significantly improved information exchange between Member States, and thereby helped to reduce driving licence tourism. Moreover, the parallel proposal for a Directive on the Union-wide effect of certain driving disqualifications⁴ addresses the absence of an EU framework for the mutual recognition of driving disqualifications which has previously been identified as one of the key enablers of driving licence tourism⁵.

Independently of the ongoing negotiations on both legal texts, the Commission frequently exchanges views and information with national authorities in order to ensure the correct implementation of the current Driving Licence Directive. The Commission is aware of the recently published report by the Swedish Transport Authority on the exchange of driving licences and the risk of 'driving licence tourism'. The Commission services are currently studying all the relevant information in order to gain clarity in the matter and assess if there is a potential misapplication of the Directive.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32006L0126>

² SWD(2022) 17 final.

³ COM(2023) 127 final: https://transport.ec.europa.eu/document/download/964d4edc-5eea-49e1-ae08-2d1e38705713_en

⁴ COM(2023) 128 final: https://transport.ec.europa.eu/document/download/de81e25a-a4f8-42e6-a41c-c063b5b4145b_en

⁵ SWD(2022) 17 final.