

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001981/24
to the Commission
Elena Kountoura (The Left)
(8 October 2024)**

Subject: Need to establish a European road transport agency

With road transport continuing to be the most common form of transport in the EU, road safety is a major social issue. In 2023, 20 400 people died in traffic accidents in the EU ⁽¹⁾. Deaths fell by just 1% in 2023, compared with the 6.1% needed annually across the EU in order to meet the European strategy's target of zero deaths by 2050 ('vision zero'), and the target of the EU road safety policy framework 2021-2030 to reduce deaths and serious injuries by 50% by the end of the decade.

The European Parliament had called on the Commission to consider establishing a European road transport agency, along the lines of the agencies for rail, sea and air transport ⁽²⁾. The creation of an agency will help to improve road safety by coordinating Member States' efforts to achieve safe, sustainable and smart transport, through ensuring the implementation of the existing European body of regulation, better data collection, information, harmonisation and exchange of good practice. In September 2022, the European coordinator for road safety announced the start of work by the Commission on the establishment of the agency.

In view of this:

Does the Commission plan to immediately move forward with the creation of a European road transport agency, with the aim of managing road safety and coordination in order to reach vision zero by 2050?

Submitted: 8.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(28 November 2024)**

In its Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy ⁽¹⁾, the Commission committed to '*explore options to further support safe, smart and sustainable road transport operations under an existing agency or another body*'.

In line with this commitment, the Commission launched a feasibility study, which identifies shortcomings in the current policy implementation and governance set-up and explores options to enable swifter deployment of innovation and new technologies for competitive, safe, smart and sustainable road transport and keep EU technical regulation fit for purpose.

The study investigates the economic, technical, legal, as well as financial feasibility of different scenarios in terms of governance structure for meeting the identified needs which go beyond road safety.

To remain competitive and attractive to investment, the EU needs to enable a fast deployment of innovation in digitalisation, connectivity and automation, while securing safe deployment of these technologies for all road users.

While the feasibility study on the possible support to this development has been completed, the Commission's assessment of the needs has not been finalised yet.

Following the outcome of this assessment, any further steps on this issue will be decided by the next College of Commissioners.

¹ Many of them pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists. See https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/2023-figures-show-stalling-progress-reducing-road-fatalities-too-many-countries-2024-03-08_en

² See paragraph 57 of the European Parliament resolution of 6 October 2021 on the EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030 — Recommendations on next steps towards 'Vision Zero'. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0407_EN.html

⁽¹⁾ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/mobility-strategy_en.