

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001256/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(26 March 2025)**

Subject: Digital driving licences

In March 2023, the Commission submitted a proposal for the introduction of EU-wide digital driving licences, which was subsequently backed by the European Parliament. The move is intended to reduce red tape and improve road safety. However, digitalisation raises serious concerns in relation to cybersecurity, data protection and accessibility for citizens without digital skills, especially older people. Moreover, the proposal makes it easier for third-country nationals to exchange their licences, which may put them at an advantage over EU citizens, who are subject to stricter requirements.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. What specific measures does the Commission plan to take to protect central databases from cyber-attacks and the misuse of EU citizens' data?
2. How will the Commission ensure equal access to digital licences for all citizens, including those without access to technology?
3. Why does the proposal simplify the procedure for third-country citizens, while EU citizens face additional administrative and health requirements, and does this not constitute a form of discrimination against EU citizens?

Submitted: 26.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(22 May 2025)**

The protection of central databases in key sectors, including those managed by public administration entities, are subject to the rules established by the NIS2 Directive ⁽¹⁾, which provide adequate horizontal safeguards against cyber-attacks, including in relation to driving licences, making it unnecessary for the directive to contain further provisions on the matter.

While mobile driving licences are to become the default format, applicants and holders retain the right to have their licence issued in both or either format.

Mobile driving licences will be available via the European Digital Identity Wallets which should be rolled out in all Member States by the end of 2026.

Should a citizen not possess the necessary technology for using the Wallet or does not wish to use it, they may (continue to) use a physical driving licence.

Driving licences issued by Member States and by third countries are not comparable as regards the criteria for their exchange. Citizens holding licences issued by Member States may exchange or continue to use their valid driving licences when moving residence in the EU without additional obligations.

Holders of driving licences issued by third countries do not have the same rights and may face administrative obligations, in particular when changing residence between Member States.

Once adopted, the new driving licence Directive intends to harmonise such obligations, for selected third countries, to facilitate the free movement of their licence holders.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2022/2555 — OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 80.