

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001791/25
to the Commission
Carlo Fidanza (ECR)
(2 May 2025)**

Subject: Road safety and working conditions in the road transport sector

As we have just celebrated Labour Day, it is an opportune moment to draw attention to the increasing number of fatalities and accidents among road hauliers, which are often linked to their gruelling working conditions and not always formally recognised as accidents at work.

The Italian Government has taken meaningful steps to improve controls and protect workers in the sector, including a new roadside checklist, a risk classification system for businesses and an extension to the period for recording tachograph data.

Initiatives have also been taken at EU level by the Commission and the European Labour Authority (ELA) to support the implementation of the mobility package. However, considerable disparities between Member States remain in the application of the rules, with repercussions for safety, workers' rights and competition in the single market.

In the light of the above:

1. With a view to ensuring uniform application of road safety and labour protection rules in the road transport sector, what further steps will the Commission take to improve and harmonise checks at EU level?
2. Will it propose new initiatives to discourage the use of transport services that systematically breach the rules on driving and rest times?

Submitted: 2.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(2 July 2025)**

The Commission is firmly committed to strengthening the enforcement of existing EU road transport rules, which are still applied unevenly across Member States.

While the Commission does not foresee introducing new legislation, it is considering a dedicated initiative on enforcement in the road transport sector structured around two key pillars: digitalisation and harmonised enforcement.

Moreover, the Commission will continue to support the Member States in implementing current rules, including the provisions on joint liability of all actors across the road transport supply chain, such as consignors, freight forwarders, shippers, tour operators, principal contractors, subcontractors, and driver employment agencies.

The Commission's goal is to ensure that contracts and transport schedules are agreed in full compliance with EU legislation, as stipulated in Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 ⁽¹⁾ and Directive 2006/22/EC ⁽²⁾.

In addition, the Commission will continue to actively support the Member States in conducting joint inspections and concerted checks, in particular under the coordination of the European Labour Authority, to strengthen cross-border cooperation and ensure effective and harmonised enforcement of EU rules in the road transport sector, including those related to occupational safety and health, by pooling and sharing national practices, expertise and resources.

In parallel, the Commission is undertaking efforts to harmonise enforcement practices across the EU through updated guidelines and guidance notes, to ensure consistent enforcement and aligned inspection methodologies, thus reducing discrepancies and fostering a level playing field for transport operators in all Member States.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport and amending Council Regulations (EEC) No 3821/85 and (EC) No 2135/98 and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 (OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ Directive 2006/22/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2006 on minimum conditions for the implementation of Regulations (EC) No 561/2006 and (EU) No 165/2014 and Directive 2002/15/EC as regards social legislation relating to road transport activities, and repealing Council Directive 88/599/EEC (OJ L 102, 11.4.2006, p. 35).