

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002894/25
to the Commission
Daniel Buda (PPE)
(15 July 2025)

Subject: Impact of professional driver shortage on livestock transportation sustainability and supply chains in the EU

The European Union currently faces an estimated shortage of approximately 500 000 professional drivers, a situation that is seriously affecting supply chains and essential sectors such as livestock transportation. In this context, the Commission's proposal regarding animal welfare during transportation provides for an increase in the minimum amount of space for each animal, which will inevitably lead to a higher required number of lorries and therefore drivers, at a time when the available workforce is already insufficient.

At the same time, other European legislation is setting increasingly strict standards for training, driving time and rest periods, which may make this profession less attractive, especially to young people.

1. Has the Commission assessed the cumulative impact of these measures on the shortage of professional drivers in the EU?
2. What concrete measures is the Commission considering to attract more people, including young people, to this vital profession?
3. How does the Commission intend to ensure that livestock transportation is sustainable in the absence of the necessary personnel?

Submitted: 15.7.2025

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(1 September 2025)

1. The Commission considers that more stringent standards for training, driving times and rest periods are more likely to have a positive impact on alleviating the shortage of professional drivers in the EU than a negative one. Stricter rules on driving times and rest periods, introduced as part of the Mobility Package 1 ⁽¹⁾, have improved working and social conditions, thereby increasing the attractiveness of the road transport profession. Certificates of completion of specialist training also improve drivers' career prospects and, as a result, increase job satisfaction and the attractiveness of the profession.
2. The Commission will continue assisting Member States and the relevant stakeholders in increasing the attractiveness of the profession through various programmes, such as Erasmus+ ⁽²⁾, the European Social Fund+ ⁽³⁾, the reinforced Youth Guarantee ⁽⁴⁾ and InvestEU ⁽⁵⁾. Safe and secure parking areas for professional drivers also contribute to better working and rest conditions. The Commission accordingly proposed to continue financial support for the creation of parking spaces for commercial road users in the context of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) in its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034 ⁽⁶⁾.
3. Space allowance provisions introduced in the Commission proposal for a regulation on the protection of animals during transport ⁽⁷⁾ are based on the recommendations of the scientific opinions provided by the European Food Safety Authority. The Commission is committed to continue working with the Council and the Parliament in the ongoing legislative procedure to find workable solutions for the protection of animals during transport whilst maintaining trade and the normal functioning of the internal market.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2020/1054 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2020, Regulation (EU) 2020/1055 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2020 and Directive (EU) 2020/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2020, all OJ L 249, 31.07.2020.
⁽²⁾ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>.
⁽³⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=62&langId=en>.
⁽⁴⁾ <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1079&langId=en>.
⁽⁵⁾ https://investeu.europa.eu/index_en.
⁽⁶⁾ Proposal for a Council Regulation laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2028 to 2034 (COM(2025) 571 final).
⁽⁷⁾ COM(2023)770.