

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003598/25
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(17 September 2025)

Subject: Addressing undeclared work in the courier, express and parcel sector

The European Labour Authority (ELA) has raised serious concerns about the rapid growth of the European courier, express and parcel sector, which has been fueled by the boom in e-commerce and fast delivery services. While this expansion has created economic opportunities, it has also come at the expense of workers' rights. The ELA highlights widespread undeclared and under-declared work, opaque subcontracting chains, unclear employment statuses and unpaid tasks such as loading and waiting times. These practices not only erode social protection and fair competition but also make enforcement extremely difficult, as responsibility is often concealed behind complex layers of subcontractors.

The persistence of bogus firms, underreporting of hours and weak access requirements for light commercial vehicle operators exacerbate non-compliance. However, examples, such as the Netherlands, demonstrate that coordinated inspections, data sharing and hard sanctions can yield more effective results.

Given the scale and cross-border nature of the problem, can the Commission clarify:

what measures it intends to take to strengthen enforcement, ensure accountability of major market players, harmonise regulatory frameworks across the Member States and safeguard fair working conditions in the European courier, express and parcel sector?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Minzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(25 November 2025)

The Commission is aware of the situation in the area and of the recently published study by the European Labour Authority (ELA) on behalf of the Platform Tackling Undeclared Work ⁽¹⁾.

With the Fair Labour Mobility Package envisaged for 2026, the Commission foresees to strengthen the role of ELA, aiming at ELA assisting Member States and the Commission more effectively in the application and enforcement of EU law related to labour mobility.

Taking account of the diversity of the national systems, the Commission encourages ELA to support mutual learning and improvement at national level. ELA is currently carrying out a mapping of subcontracting, therewith collecting more evidence.

In 2026, the Commission envisages to propose a Quality Jobs Act to address new challenges and realities for workers in the modern economy. Furthermore, the Commission will continue to support structures providing advice and assistance to mobile and migrant workers.

The Postal Services Directive ⁽²⁾ establishes that national regulatory authorities may make the granting of authorisations to postal service providers subject to working conditions as laid down by national legislation.

The Commission has announced in the Single Market Strategy to propose an EU Delivery Act in the fourth quarter of 2026, to replace Postal Services Directive and Cross-border Parcels Regulation ⁽³⁾.

A Call for evidence was published on 6 October 2025. It will be followed by a public consultation (start planned for December 2025), a study, and possibly targeted consultations.

⁽¹⁾ https://www.ela.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2025-08/20250718_Study_Parcel_Delivery_vFinal_%28reviewed_August%29.pdf.

⁽²⁾ Directive 97/67/EC as amended by Directive 2002/39/EC and 2008/6/EC <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/1997/67/oj>, here: Article 2, point 19, in conjunction with Article 9, paragraph 2, fifth indent.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/644.