

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000342/26
to the Commission**

Carolina Morace (The Left), Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left), Valentina Palmisano (The Left)
(28 January 2026)

Subject: European road signs and safe cross-border mobility

Millions of people travel across the EU's internal borders for work, to study or for tourism purposes. In this context, clear, immediately understandable and coherent road signs play a key role in ensuring road safety and facilitating the free movement of persons.

Despite the common framework set out in the Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals, which harmonises symbols and shapes of signs, significant differences remain among the Member States with regard to the colour coding of road categories. In particular, the use of different colours to identify motorways, primary roads and secondary roads can be misleading for occasional drivers, tourists and cross-border workers, and may negatively affect their sense of direction and their safety.

Given that, as reiterated in the EU road safety policy framework 2021-2030 and the 'vision zero' objective, road safety is a priority for the EU:

1. Is the Commission aware of the impact that inconsistency in the colour of road signs can have on safety and the cross-border driving experience?
2. Will it push for studies or impact assessments to be carried out on that subject?
3. Would it be appropriate to move towards common European guidelines or gradually harmonising signs?

Supporter ⁽¹⁾

Submitted: 28.1.2026

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(13 March 2026)

In general, road signs are established in the Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals ⁽¹⁾ (the Convention); the Member States are contracting parties to this Convention.

The Convention allows for a certain flexibility concerning the colour of certain symbols or the background, e.g., signs notifying an entry to or an exit from a motorway, or an entry to or exit from a road on which the traffic rules are the same as on a motorway, shall have blue or green ground.

Nonetheless, application of the Convention is not subject to any legal obligation established at EU level. Traffic regulation falls completely in the competence of the Member States.

Therefore, the Commission does not plan to take any action in this domain for the time being. Further harmonisation and introduction of new signs should be done in the framework of the Convention.

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Dario Tamburrano (The Left).

⁽¹⁾ https://unece.org/DAM/trans/conventn/Conv_road_signs_2006v_EN.pdf.