

EN

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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
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Well-trained drivers are generally safer drivers, and there is a clear link between the education and training of drivers and road safety¹. However, the qualification and training of bus and lorry drivers is not only intended to improve road safety but also the safety of the driver, including during operations carried out by the driver while the vehicle is stopped. Moreover, it enables the driver to meet the demands of the road transport market.

The periodic training is intended to assist drivers in remaining up to date in the skills and knowledge of matters which are essential for their profession. The requirement of 35 hours of periodic training every five years, i.e. on average one seven-hour period per year, does not appear disproportionate in a professional environment that is rapidly evolving. The periodic training should be relevant for the driver and take his or her specific training needs into account. Experienced drivers should also be able to benefit from it.

Member States have several ways to reduce the burden on drivers. A third of periodic training (up to 12 hours) can already today be given as e-learning, i.e. in a digital way. Moreover, Member States may include the completed specific training as required under other Union legislation for up to one (in exceptional cases two) of the stipulated seven-hour periods². The Commission plans to hold an implementation dialogue in November 2026 to discuss any difficulties encountered in the implementation of Directive (EU) 2022/2561³, in particular as regards the diverging needs of drivers, and any possibilities of simplification of the training framework.

¹ See for instance SWD(2017) 27 final (Part 1/2), page 6, and sources quoted therein. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD:2017:027:FIN>.

² Cf. Section 4 of Annex I to Directive (EU) 2022/2561 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers, OJ L 330, 23.12.2022, p. 46, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2561/oj>.

³ OJ L 330, 23.12.2022, p. 46, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2561/oj>.