

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003059/26
to the Commission**

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(20 July 2026)

Subject: Difficulties in interpreting Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 resulting from the concept of ‘week’

A letter from a trainer in road transport sent to several Members draws attention to recurrent difficulties regarding interpretation of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006. The letter’s author states that use of the word ‘week’ in Articles 4 and 6 leads to misunderstandings in practice and problematic situations during inspections — particularly the distinction between a calendar week and a working week.

1. Can the Commission confirm whether it is aware of these enforcement troubles, which appear to have a real impact on road transport drivers, particularly those in the perishable goods transport and passenger transport sectors?
2. Does it intend to clarify how it interprets ‘week’ to ensure the text is properly applied in all Member States or propose a targeted amendment to the regulation to remove any ambiguity?

Submitted: 20.7.2026

Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(7 September 2026)

Pursuant to the definition laid down in point (i) of Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 ⁽¹⁾ ‘a week’ means the period of time between 00.00 on Monday and 24.00 on Sunday.

With reference to the provisions included in Article 6 of the same Regulation, the above-mentioned definition of ‘week’ applies as the temporal limit for the maximum daily driving time of 10 hours (first paragraph), for the maximum weekly driving time of 56 hours (second paragraph), for the maximum accumulated driving time of 90 hours during any two consecutive weeks (third paragraph), and for the weekly driving time of all driving time in the territories of both the Union and third countries (fourth paragraph).

Reference to this calendar week, rather than to each driver’s personal schedule, makes enforcement consistent and predictable across all drivers.

As regards Directive 2002/15/EC ⁽²⁾, point (g) of its Article 3 lays down the same definition of ‘week’ as the above-mentioned definition laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006: ‘week’ shall mean the period between 00.00 hours on Monday and 24.00 hours on Sunday.

Please see the enforcement guidance document Trace 2 — Efficient and harmonised enforcement of Mobility Package 1, published by the Commission ⁽³⁾.

⁽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 2002/15/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2002 on the organisation of the working time of persons performing mobile road transport activities (OJ L 80, 23.3.2002, p. 35).

⁽³⁾ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7d6a6df5-bc08-4147-83f0-9d61eb1b93ec_en?filename=TRACE_II_Driving-Resting_Times_Enforcement_Guidance.pdf.