

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002907/24
to the Commission
Andrey Novakov (PPE)
(12 December 2024)**

Subject: Introduction of the new smart tachograph (version 2)

The introduction of a new version of the smart tachograph (smart tachograph version 2) is a critical step in modernising international transport. Transport operators have to retrofit their fleets of cross-border operation vehicles, while the sector faces many other challenges, such as complex administrative requirements, long border delays, abusive fines and a global driver shortage. Despite the progress of the retrofitting process and the willingness of the companies to comply, the issues with tachograph availability due to insufficient supply, coupled with limited workshop capacity and a shortage of qualified technicians, have further slowed the process. The available data shows that if transport operators who were unable to retrofit their vehicles within the deadlines suspended their cross-border operations, we would suffer significant market capacity challenge. In order to prevent a potential crisis in the transportation of goods and to ensure a fair transition by giving companies sufficient time to adapt to these new technologies, it is essential to guarantee an extension of the current deadlines, currently set for 31 December 2024 and 18 August 2025, and to provide a necessary and adequate grace period for compliance of at least six months.

Will the Commission protect European business and support the transport operators by introducing such a grace period?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(21 January 2025)**

The provisions to retrofit a ‘smart tachograph version 2’ in vehicles operating in Member States other than their Member State of registration are laid out in Articles 3(4) and 3(4a) of Regulation (EU) No 165/2014 ⁽¹⁾, and are key to effective and efficient enforcement of the social and market provisions agreed upon by the EU legislator as part of Mobility Package 1.

Over the year 2024, the Commission has closely monitored the progress of the retrofit and has engaged with Member States and relevant stakeholders to raise awareness about these deadlines, including through the Committee on Road Transport, established in accordance with Article 42 of Regulation (EU) No 165/2014.

The Committee met in this respect on 18 December 2024, and reached a consensus on a harmonised approach with regards to the deadline of 31 December 2024 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission believes that sufficient time remains until 18 August 2025 for the second deadline to be fully complied with.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) No 165/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 February 2014 on tachographs in road transport, repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport and amending Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport, (OJ L 60, 28.2.2014, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ A summary report of the meeting is available in the Comitology Register.