

Question for written answer E-014413/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Use of driving licences as identity documents or travel documents

Nationals of the Nordic countries (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Iceland) can travel to/within any of those countries without a travel document, but must be able to prove their identity if called upon to do so. A driving licence, for example, is suitable for this purpose.

EU citizens enjoy freedom of movement in the Schengen area as well, meaning that passports or identity documents are not checked at the border but must be available for production upon request. However, in this situation, a driving licence is not accepted as a travel document or identity document. Yet the Driving Licences Directive has laid down uniform requirements applicable to driving licences, including those issued in other EU Member States.

Could the Commission examine the possibility of extending the use of driving licences as a travel document between Member States, at least in cases in which the driving licence has been issued for a limited period (which in Finland happens when people are aged over 70)? This would reduce the burden involved in multiple application procedures for members of the public, as well as the volume of work done by the authorities, and thus also costs.