

Question for written answer E-015354/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Brian Hayes (PPE)

Subject: Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 on driving and resting periods

Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 on driving and resting periods, together with previous regulations, has consolidated driving and resting times, improved working conditions and road safety, and ensured equal competition for companies.

However, some of its provisions have led to harmful effects on the road haulage industry in the EU. In particular, limiting the period between two weekly rest periods to 144 hours (6 periods of 24 hours) is seriously detrimental for long-distance transport. As a consequence, drivers are forced to enjoy their weekly rest periods on the road. This harms their life conditions and the companies' productivity.

In many cases, workers could enjoy their weekly rest periods at home with their families if the excessive rigidity of Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 did not prevent this. This would have many benefits, not only for workers but also for companies, which would save on allowances, among other costs.

In light of these concerns, does the Commission have any proposals on how to address this issue?