

**Question for written answer E-015640/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE)

Subject: Payment of the new Belgium road toll for haulage contractors

On 1 April 2016 the Belgian authorities will introduce a new road toll for lorries over 3.5 tonnes in weight that can only be paid if the vehicles concerned are fitted with a satellite controlled device. This new Eurovignette system only accepts payment through a specific 'on board unit' (OBU) even though the vehicles concerned may only occasionally be driven on Belgian roads. Before fitting this device in their lorries users must pay a deposit of EUR 135 to the contractor Satellic, a subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom, which will have the monopoly on operating this toll collection and verification system. Just the purchase and assembly of this OBU in the approximately 700 000 vehicles concerned will bring in EUR 95 million in revenue. As this payment system is not interoperable with other OBUs already fitted in haulage vehicles, hauliers are forced to fit this one.

1. Does the Commission know the details of how this service was awarded?
2. Does the Commission believe that these operating conditions may cause distortions in rights to free competition and free movement?
3. Is the Satellic OBU compatible with EU legislation on interoperability of toll verification and payment devices?