

Parliamentary question - E-009231/2016

European Parliament

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Road tax and fixed charge for international transport services

6.12.2016

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Question for written answer E-009231-16
to the Commission
Rule 130
Isabella De Monte (S&D)

Pursuant to the stabilisation and association agreement between the EU and Albania, Italy has granted Albania exemptions from road tax and the fixed charge ('diritto fisso') for tractor units, lorries and trailers used for international goods transport that are imported temporarily from Albania and are owned by persons resident in that country.

Although Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia have the same status as Albania, they do not enjoy those exemptions.

In this connection, the agreement of 28 April 2003 between the Italian Government and Bosnia and Herzegovina on mutual regulation of international passenger and goods transport provides for the option of tax concessions being agreed between the relevant authorities on a basis of reciprocity.

The imposition of road tax and the fixed charge could have a negative impact on the haulage business and on trade between Italy and those countries, whose hauliers are having to face up to competition from operators who are not subject to those levies because they are established in EU Member States such as Croatia.

Does the Commission intend to take steps to foster the provision of international transport services in the Balkans, thereby promoting economic activity and trade on a basis of reciprocity, and if so, when?

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Answer given by Ms Bulc on behalf of the Commission

22.2.2017

[> Written question](#)

Subject to the rules governing land transport between the European Union and Albania, as set out in Protocol 5 to the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part^[1], as well as to relevant provisions of the Stabilisation and Association Agreements with the other Western Balkan countries, the international carriage of goods by road between the European Union and third countries is regulated according to Article 1 of Regulation (EC) No 1072/2009 on common rules for access to the international road haulage market^[2].

However, until the necessary international agreements are not concluded between the EU and third countries concerned, existing bilateral agreements concluded by individual Member States with third countries can continue to apply in this area.

In these bilateral Member State-third country agreements, usually both sides impose restrictions on each other's road hauliers (such as quotas). Road taxes and charges are frequently part of such bilateral agreements which often differ from country to country.

The Commission continues to work towards further integration and approximation of transport *acquis* with the candidate countries and potential candidates in the western Balkans.

[1] OJ L 107 28.4.2009, p. 166.

[2] OJ L 300, 14.11.2009, p. 72.