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VIOLETA BULC

Member of the European Commission

Mr Radu DINESCU
Secretary-General
National Union of Road Hauliers from Romania
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Dear Mr Dinescu,

Thank for your letter of 9th May 2018 regarding controls of weekly rest in France and Belgium.

I would like to inform you that my services already investigated the issue of implementation and control practices of the ban to take the regular weekly rest in the cabin of a truck in France and in Belgium. In their responses, Belgium and France confirmed that enforcement authorities cannot require any proofs, such as hotel bills from drivers, proving that their regular weekly rest preceding the roadside inspection was not spent in the vehicle.

Hence, drivers can be fined for non-compliance with this prohibition only when they are caught having a weekly rest inside the vehicle at the time of the control. France and Belgium also assured the Commission that clear instructions had been given to their enforcement authorities on how the control of the weekly rest should be implemented.

Therefore, should operators have been affected by inappropriate control practices, they should appeal to the French and/or Belgian authorities for reimbursement of imposed fines.

As you may know, in view of clarifying this issue, the Commission proposed on 31 May 2017 to revise Regulation (EC) 561/2006 on driving and rest periods to clarify and adapt the weekly rest requirements¹.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/news/2017-05-31-europe-on-the-move_en

This measure proposes a ban of spending the weekly rest in the vehicle while allowing some flexibility for drivers to arrange their weekly rest which would facilitate their return home. This proposal is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and the Council.

Yours sincerely,



Violeta BULC