

**Priority question for written answer P-001705/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)

Subject: EU driving licence – harmonisation of standards

The EU has introduced a harmonised driving licence model and further minimum requirements for obtaining a driving licence in the EU. In accordance with Commission Decision (EU) 2016/1945 on equivalences between categories of driving licences and the principle of mutual recognition, some EU countries, such as the Czech Republic, allow the holders of a category B1 driving licence to drive vehicles belonging to categories AM and B1. However, in other countries such as Bulgaria, this is not the case. This creates discrepancies, increases the administrative burden and could lead to more accidents.

1. Is the Commission considering harmonising these categories (e.g. AM, B1) across the entire EU so that there are no discrepancies between the holders of driving licences issued by different Member States?
2. Does the Commission plan to fully harmonise the standards for obtaining a driving licence across the EU?
3. Will the Commission address this issue in the upcoming EU directive on driving licences?

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Answer given by Ms Vălean
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.7.2023)

The Driving Licence Directive (2006/126/EC¹) regulates all categories of driving licences for driving power-driven vehicles used for the carriage of goods or persons on roads that may be issued within the Union. All categories are harmonised. However category B1 may be introduced optionally by Member States². Moreover, according to the Directive³ Member States can decide whether they grant an AM licence together with a driving licence issued in any category or only with those issued in categories A1, A2 and A. Any differences in the categories of driving licences that are issued or granted by Member States are therefore intentional in order to give Member States more freedom. The Commission does not intend to further harmonise these categories, nor the standards for obtaining a driving license. The possible discrepancies of this system are remedied by way of so-called Union-codes that can be found in Annex I.

While the Commission proposal for a new Driving Licence Directive⁴ contains certain additional possibilities as regards category B1, it does not intend to change the rules currently in place.

¹ OJ L 403, 30.12.2006, p. 18.

² In accordance with the third indent of Article 4(4), point (a), of Directive 2006/126/EC.

³ Article 6(2), point (d).

⁴ Adopted on the 1st of March under 2023(COM) 127.