

**Question for written answer E-003340/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (Renew)

Subject: 'Telelearning' rules for haulage drivers

Last week was the deadline for Member States to transpose Directive (EU) 2018/645 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 April 2018 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers. This directive sets a mandatory minimum length of training – 280 for initial training, 140 for accelerated initial training and 35 for periodic training – and places a limit (12 hours) on the amount of periodic training that can be done online. The pandemic has obliged us to suspend certain deadlines for renewing these certifications and has given rise to a boom in teleworking and online distance learning.

1. Has the pandemic affected the limits on 'telelearning' established in this directive?
2. Does the Commission have any information on whether Member States have placed time limits on online training for initial and accelerated initial training processes?
3. Are there any plans to promote online training in this sector?

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E-003340/2020
Answer given by Ms Vălean
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.8.2020)

The Commission has not proposed any changes to the maximum duration of ‘e-learning’ applicable to periodic training as established by Directive 2003/59/EC¹, nor has proposed any specific measures in this respect as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Commission is not aware of any specific measures adopted by Member States because of the COVID-19 pandemic concerning online training applicable to the initial training of professional drivers.

The Commission will exchange with the Member States concerning best practices for the implementation of Directive 2003/59/EC in the expert group for the training of professional drivers.

¹ Directive 2003/59/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2003 on the initial qualification and periodic training of drivers of certain road vehicles for the carriage of goods or passengers, amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 and Council Directive 91/439/EEC and repealing Council Directive 76/914/EEC