

**Question for written answer E-003779/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Angelika Niebler (PPE)**

Subject: End of toll charge exemption in German-Austrian border area

The Austrian motorway-operating company Asfinag decided, as of 1 December 2013, to reinstate its toll sticker system on the stretch of motorway between the German-Austrian border and the Kufstein South junction, which had been toll free since 1996.

As a result, every day, large numbers of drivers heading from Germany to the nearby ski and leisure resorts in Austria are leaving the motorway before the border and taking the secondary road through the municipality of Kiefersfelden.

For the people of Kiefersfelden, this has heightened the risk of road accidents and has increased levels of traffic noise and pollution from exhaust fumes.

For these reasons, the Kiefersfelden municipal authority recently made a submission to the Commission and the European Parliament, calling for a European solution to the problem of toll avoidance to be found, given that such situations are not uncommon.

1. Is the Commission aware of the submission?
2. If so, what further action does it intend to take in response to it?
3. Would the Commission be amenable to an initiative to facilitate light cross-border traffic?
4. Does the Commission agree that the type of situation seen in this case is at odds with the concept of European integration, especially given the creation of European regions (Euregios) as a means of fostering cooperation between areas on either side of national borders?
5. What other steps is the Commission considering to protect towns and villages in border areas, and the people who live there, from the impact of toll evasion with the associated nuisance of noise and fumes?