

DR. CAROLINE LUCAS

Green Party
for the South East of England

Commissioner Barrot
DG Transport
The European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
Brussels B1049
Belgium

December 18th 2007

Dear Commissioner,

I wanted to bring to your attention what I believe is an unintended consequence of the European Regulation (EC) No 561/2006 requiring certain categories to be fitted with digital tachographs.

In some parts of Hampshire, in my euro-constituency, bus companies have been withdrawing services from routes longer than 50km, so that they may avoid the requirement to fit a digital tachograph or employing the extra staff needed to implement formal rostering. I suspect this is also happening elsewhere.

I fully support the legislation designed to improve driver safety and working conditions but am concerned that it is being circumvented in this way. As a result of the cost-cutting action being taken by bus companies, services are being cut in rural areas particularly and the overall impact on public transport users is detrimental. Given the need to promote public transport as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions across the EU, I am sure the Commission will be keen to review the regulations at the earliest possible opportunity in order to identify ways of preventing this and any other associated reduction in service provision.

Thank you for giving this matter your attention.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP for South East England.