

**Question for written answer E-014789/2015  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: The Commission and Volkswagen

It emerged this month (October 2015) that the Commission was aware that car manufacturers were fitting diesel cars with software devices to manipulate emissions tests as early as 2013.

In February 2013, the then Commissioner for the environment, Janez Potočnik, wrote to Antonio Tajani, then Commissioner for industry, warning that several Member States believed that a 'significant discrepancy' between emissions from cars and emissions during testing was the 'primary reason' for which air quality was not improving, according to the Financial Times.

In his letter, Commissioner Potočnik said: 'There are widespread concerns that performance [of cars] has been tailored tightly to compliance with the test cycle in disregard of the dramatic increase in emissions outside that narrow scope. My services and I are often put in an uncomfortable position when defending the perceived lack of action by the Commission and Member States in addressing the obvious failure to ensure this'.

In light of this alarming information, can the Commission advise as to why no substantial action was taken and why this scandal was left to continue unhindered?