

Question for written answer E-015783/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Car emission limits after the Volkswagen scandal

Consumer and environmental organisations have criticised the decision on real car emissions taken by the Commission after the Volkswagen scandal.

In October 2015, the Technical Committee on Motor Vehicles (TCMV) authorised Euro 6 diesel cars to emit more than twice the limits previously set in the period between 2017 and 2020, and more than half the limits set from 2020 onwards, without any scientific evidence to back up this decision.

The legislation adopted in 2007 clearly states that the volume of emissions set should apply to normal conditions. It also makes future amendments conditional on scientific evidence to support them.

1. How does the Commission justify this decision, bearing in mind the lack of any scientific basis for it and the limited powers available to the Commission in comitology procedures?
2. How did it analyse the estimated impact of this decision as regards air quality, inter alia, and what conclusions did it draw?
3. How does it justify its own clear lack of independence vis-à-vis the car industry, as demonstrated by the fact that it knew about emissions manipulation long before the scandal became public?