

Question for written answer E-015664/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Investigation of the automobile industry

The automobile manufacturer Volkswagen is under scrutiny for wholesale fraud involving the falsification of emissions test results for its cars. Volkswagen has publicly admitted that as many as 11 million cars – and 11 million car-owners – are affected by this situation. European citizens are also affected both directly, as consumers, and indirectly on account of the very damaging effects that excess air pollution has on health. The true figures for the falsified emissions test results in the US market are reported to be up to 40 times the legal maximum. Volkswagen is by far the largest car manufacturer on the EU market, with a market share of around 25%. Initial analysis shows that nearly 1 million tonnes of additional annual pollution may have been caused by the falsified test results. The impact of those emissions may be even greater in Europe, where almost half of passenger cars run on diesel, than in the USA. In the USA, Volkswagen will now face a series of probes and even criminal lawsuits.

Have any proposals addressing this matter been brought forward at an EC level, and what steps will the Commission take to stop anything like this happening in the EU?