

Question for written answer E-014763/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
James Nicholson (ECR)

Subject: Criminal activity involving diesel fuel

The process known as 'laundering' of diesel fuel to remove 'markers' inserted in the fuel by national agencies to differentiate between fuels which attract different levels of excise duties or taxation has become a major criminal enterprise, with 'laundered fuel' being exported between Member States. Motorists who innocently purchase the 'laundered' diesel are unwittingly funding criminal activity and are finding, to their cost, that such diesel can seriously damage their vehicles, necessitating costly repairs.

As this practice has become a 'cross-border' illegal activity that impacts negatively on customers and on legitimate fuel sales outlets, will the Commission undertake an immediate examination of the extent of the problem, publish the findings of its examination and outline proposals to counter this growing cross-border illegal trade?