

Question for written answer E-015780/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Imports of highly polluting second-hand buses

In the past three years, 984 second-hand buses were imported into Portugal, which is significantly more than the number of new buses. Multinational companies such as Arriva are playing a prominent role in this process.

The vast majority of these buses are fairly old and highly polluting. In fact, 27 buses do not even meet the Euro 1 standard. In total, 757 buses (i.e. 77% of all imported buses) do not meet the Euro 4 standard that came force more than a decade ago (in January 2005).

This is clearly at odds with the debate and guidelines aimed at making the transport sector more sustainable. Even worse, we are dealing here with a disgraceful process whereby multinationals operating in the sector are deliberately sending obsolete and highly polluting vehicles at the end of their life cycle to countries on the edge of the EU, such as Portugal. Furthermore, this strategy is creating unfair competition for national bus manufacturers, who are already facing a whole range of problems as a result of the economic situation and are threatened with closure.

Is the Commission aware of the above process? What is its assessment and what action will be taken?