

**Question for written answer E-014452/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Claudia Tapardel (S&D)

Subject: Ecotax payable by consumers for purchasing vehicles

In September 2015, the United States Agency for Environmental Protection, along with the US Air Resources Board, launched an investigation into the Volkswagen Group for violating pollution standards by falsifying the nitrogen oxides emissions tests conducted on diesel vehicles.

The findings of the investigation by the US authorities showed that in the case of 11 million vehicles, nitrogen oxides emissions exceeded the legal limits. What is more, a large proportion of those vehicles had been sold in Europe, on the basis of type approvals corresponding to the Euro 5 standard.

At the time of purchasing a Volkswagen vehicle, consumers paid an ecotax calculated on the basis of the emissions levels shown in the type approval. Since, following the investigations conducted by the competent authorities, it was discovered that those emissions exceeded the applicable standards, the ecotax payable on their purchases will need to be revised upwards.

In these circumstances:

1. Does the Commission think that the financial damages arising from the increase in ecotax based on the real levels of vehicle emissions should be covered by consumers?
2. What will the Commission do to protect European consumers in this matter?