

Question for written answer E-014657/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Daniel Buda (PPE)

Subject: Diesel engine NO₂ emissions that exceed EU pollution limits

According to reports in the press, diesel engines in cars manufactured in the EU pose major risks to the European public, particularly in urban areas, owing to the high levels of polluting NO₂ they emit – this because laboratory tests on vehicle emissions are now ‘behind the times’ and fail to effectively detect the real pollution being produced by diesel engines. Although in the majority of the tests conducted in laboratories, diesel engines are found to comply with current standards, once they are on the road they produce up to 22 times as much pollution (in the case of the Audi A8 and of some other cars produced by Volkswagen), creating a public health risk. In practice, cars manufactured in 2015 emit hazardous substances that only meet the Euro 3 standards for cars manufactured 15 years ago, rather than the current Euro 6 standard. In London alone, 10 000 people die each year as a result of NO₂ pollution.

Can the Commission state what steps it will take to impose stricter rules on European car manufacturers aimed at reducing NO₂ pollution caused by diesel engines, and what penalties it will establish for car makers which fail to comply with European standards?