

**Question for written answer E-002374/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Speed limit on European roads: good for people and the environment

Each year, 26 000 people die on Europe's roads. Under Article 91(1)(c) TFEU, the European Parliament and the Council have the power to lay down 'measures to improve transport safety'. Research¹ has shown repeatedly that high vehicle speed increases the probability of accidents entailing serious material and non-material damage: one third of fatal accidents are due to excessive speed. Lower speed limits are needed. Moreover, they would put us on course towards a low-carbon economy. Reducing the speed limit from 120 to 100 km/h would already reduce fuel consumption by 18%².

In view of the large number of road accident victims on Europe's roads, and efforts to prevent global warming, it is in the interests of everybody in Europe that the maximum speed at which vehicles may travel should be limited by law. Yet the Commission is so far refusing to submit any effective proposals on the subject.

1. Will the Commission take the first step by submitting a proposal to reduce the maximum speed of vehicles in Europe?
2. What is the state of play with regard to research³⁴ into the efficiency of intelligent speed adapters (ISA) in vehicles⁵, and will this ultimately lead to the compulsory installation of such systems in all European vehicles?

¹ <http://archive.etsc.eu/documents/Managing%20Speed%20Towards%20Safe%20and%20Sustainable%20Road%20Transport.pdf>

² http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/transport/speed-limits#_ftn1

³ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2013-008955&language=NL>

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/pdf/vehicles/speed_limitation_evaluation_en.pdf

⁵ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/specialist/knowledge/speed/new_technologies_new_opportunities/intelligent_speed_adaptation_isa_en.htm