

**Question for written answer E-013688/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Fraud by the Volkswagen Group

A massive fraud perpetrated by Volkswagen has come to light in the past few weeks: the group has admitted selling diesel vehicles fitted with a 'defeat device' to disguise the level of pollutant emissions under real driving conditions.

This is fraud on the grand scale, harming not only Volkswagen's employees but also the confidence of its customers and consumers at large, and the environment, and undermining public authorities' efforts to help the car industry. The fraud has jeopardised the group's investment plans and cast a pall of uncertainty over a sector vital to countries such as Spain – the world's ninth-largest car producer – where it employs 300 000 people directly and supports the jobs of a further 2 million.

1. How much did the Commission know in advance about the revelations?
2. What does it intend to do to ensure compliance with the existing rules, and how will it encourage a toughening of the relevant laws and ensure that emissions tests are carried out under real driving conditions?
3. What measures will it push for to protect jobs in the car industry in the wake of the damage done by this fraud?