

**Question for written answer E-004372/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Olga Sehnalová (S&D)

Subject: The number of road vehicles in operation without particle filters

The European Commission in its strategy papers is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Euro emission standards, which set limits on pollutants in engine exhaust emissions, contribute to the achievement of the targets set.

Diesel-powered motor cars complying with emission standards Euro 4, 5 and 6 are as a general rule equipped with particle filters, which eliminate soot particles in the exhaust gases of diesel engines and help to reduce exhaust emissions. However, some owners have the particulate filters removed from their vehicles. After removal of the filter and reprogramming of the factory settings of the control units a car does not necessarily meet the conditions required for vehicle type-approval, yet such vehicles are still in operation on European roads.

Does the Commission have an overview of the number of vehicles without particle filters in operation in the Member States or an idea of the number of vehicles detected during technical inspections as having had the particle filter removed?