

**Question for written answer E-008652/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Velocity

The number of people using electric and ordinary bicycles in large towns and cities has increased significantly in the past two years. Figures show that the number of electric bicycles sold has risen by 31%, with a 30% rise in the number of ordinary bicycles sold. Cyclists most frequently use this means of transport to travel between their home and workplace or school/university. Researchers have shown that cycling offers a range of health benefits: it prolongs life, protects the heart, improves muscle tone, reduces signs of ageing by producing collagen, and helps to burn more calories. Growing numbers of large towns and cities are now encouraging inhabitants and indeed tourists to use velocity-style bike loan schemes to move around, thereby helping to reduce traffic congestion in urban areas and cut carbon emissions and pollution.

What strategy does the Commission have for developing these velocity-style bike loan schemes, including in smaller towns, with a view to encouraging the public to stop using their cars for urban journeys, which would help to reduce both urban pollution and obesity, particularly among young people?