

Question for written answer E-006045/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Developing the electric vehicle market in Europe

Smog is a serious problem in many European cities, and it is partly caused by car exhausts. More and more people are saying that an effective way of dealing with poor air quality would be to replace cars containing combustion engines with electric cars.

Many initiatives have already been taken to introduce radical restrictions on diesel or even petrol-driven vehicles, to encourage the use, for example, of electric vehicles. Unfortunately, however, there is no comprehensive strategy for the development of the market in cars with alternative power sources – in particular, heavy investment is needed to build the infrastructure for charging electric vehicles. The uncertainty of the situation makes life very difficult not only for consumers spending significant sums of private money on cars, but also for the European automotive industry and the hundreds of thousands of people employed in the sector.

In October 2015, the Commission wrote a reply to my question on the development of the electric vehicle market in the EU, detailing the many smaller-scale initiatives it had taken to support the sector. There is still no EU-wide strategy for supporting electric vehicles, however. What action is the Commission planning to take – with full respect for the principle of maintaining technological neutrality and not favouring one technology over the others – to support the development of the electric vehicle market on the single market?