

Question for written answer E-005395/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: The need to harmonise technical solutions for charging electric vehicles

The European Union has set itself ambitious goals in terms of preventing undesirable environmental changes, particularly air pollution and global warming. To this end, one of the EU's strategies is to invest in electric vehicles and the associated infrastructure.

Unfortunately, one of the major setbacks preventing a more wide-spread popularisation of electric vehicles is the absence of a harmonised battery charging technology. Therefore, there is a need for standardisation: firstly, of the charging plugs, and secondly, of the protocols used for communication between batteries and charging stations. We have to consider that four distinct charging standards have already been introduced worldwide and the industry is bound to produce more in the near future.

Harmonisation of electric vehicle charging technologies would be beneficial for users and manufacturers alike. From the driver's perspective, this would eliminate the need to search for dedicated charging stations and allow them instead to use any station they come across. For manufacturers, harmonisation would also yield measurable financial advantages, as production will no longer have to be differentiated for the respective target markets.

In light of the above, does the European Commission intend to engage the automotive industry and international partners in an effort to standardise electric vehicle charging systems?