

**Question for written answer E-001742/2019
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)

Subject: High prices for automotive air conditioning (Directive 2006/40/EC) - competition concerns and market access for historically active companies

Following the entry into force of the Mobile Air Conditioning (MAC) Directive¹, a more environmentally friendly refrigerant, 1234yf – which replaces the previous refrigerant, 134a, for all new cars – is the global solution for automotive air conditioning. However, the company Honeywell controls access to the market for 1234yf, with no possible competition from other companies that have historically been active in the refrigerant market. This results in consumers across Europe facing high prices² for new cars equipped with 1234yf, as well as for recharging this refrigerant during periodic maintenance services.

1. Does the Commission share these competition concerns, or does it believe that no risks exist as regards choice and price levels, for companies apart from Honeywell and ultimately for consumers?
2. Can the Commission state what measures it has taken to avoid these negative effects on competition?
3. Has the Commission committed, or does it intend to commit, to taking urgent action in order to restore competition and ensure that consumers and the environment are not unfairly and adversely impacted?

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/automotive/environment-protection/mobile-air-conditioning-systems_en

² <https://refrigeranthq.com/the-pricing-struggles-of-1234yf/>