

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3519/00

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to the Council

Subject: The current system of car taxation and its inconsistency with the internal market and free trade

Will the Council please consider, as a matter of urgency, the correction of distortions in car taxation? In several Member States, the tax system treats the importation of cars unfairly, especially when the importer is a private citizen. The taxes levied on imported cars are frequently not based on the real value of the car, particularly if the car is a used car. The excessively high taxes act as a barrier to intra-EU trade and prevent the establishment of competitive markets in the European Union. Article 25 of the Treaty establishing the European Community forbids customs duties on imports and exports between Member States as well as charges having equivalent effect.

What does the Council intend to do in order to correct the distortions caused by arbitrary car import rules in the Member States? What will the Council do to ensure transparent car imports which are in conformity with Community law?

When will European consumers be able to enjoy the benefits of a genuine internal market when buying a car?