

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2073/02  
by Daniela Raschhofer (NI)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Obligatory number plates for bicycles throughout the EU

Many Austrian towns are faced with the problem of the unauthorised use of public facilities and areas by cyclists.

It is not unusual for cyclists to use paths or areas where cycling is forbidden. This breaking of the law means that other road-users, passers-by and residents suffer, and accidents occur quite frequently.

It is, in general, difficult to call cyclists to account in such situations. Unless the cyclists stop, the absence of number plates on bicycles makes it almost impossible for their identity to be established.

Since this is probably not just an Austrian problem:

1.       Is the Commission aware of the problem outlined above?
2.       Is it considering presenting a proposal for a directive on obligatory number plates for bicycles throughout the EU, in order to improve the chances of the identity of cyclists who break the law being established?
3.       If not, why is it taking no action in this connection?