

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1386/08  
by Michael Gahler (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject: Communication on noise abatement measures for existing rolling stock

There has been a marked increase in recent years in freight carried by rail in Germany. This impacts directly on noise pollution along the Rhine valley which reaches up to 107 dB.

Much of this noise pollution generated by rail freight traffic results from the interaction of conventional cast iron brake pads with the wheel-to-track system of freight wagons. In addition to measures aimed at improving noise abatement alongside existing track (e.g. noise protection embankments), thought should also therefore be given to tougher measures to reduce noise at source (rolling stock).

In its reply to written parliamentary question E-2848/07, the Commission had indicated its intention to adopt a communication by the end of 2007 that would propose a set of measures to address the problem. This has yet to happen.

1. When will the Commission adopt the communication in question?
2. What are the key reasons for the delay?
3. Which specific noise abatement measures are currently under consideration?
4. What part do market-economy concepts and funding programmes play in the Commission's overall approach?
5. Does the Commission acknowledge that effective noise abatement must also be carried out at source, i.e. on the rolling stock?