

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0871/09

by Malcolm Harbour (PPE-DE) and Christoph Konrad (PPE-DE)  
to the Commission

Subject:           Vehicle Block Exemption

Would the Commission confirm that the conclusions of the review of the future regime for car distribution and a decision on the extension of the existing Block Exemption will not be published before April 2009? Would the Commission confirm that there was overwhelming opposition to the suggestion by their services that the sector specific regulation for the car industry should be abolished, and that many potential dangers for consumers and small enterprises were identified in the responses? Would the Commission agree that the release of its decision in April 2009 is far too late for proper consultation with stakeholders, Member States and the European Parliament, before the European Elections? Would the Commission also agree, therefore, that the release of a decision by the Commissioner's successor in Autumn 2009, after full consultations, will give the parties an unacceptably short time to prepare for any changes? Will the Commission therefore confirm that the extension of the present regime for at least 3 years is a logical and correct decision that will be widely supported by European citizens?