

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1002/09
by Hynek Fajmon (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: State subsidies for the disposal of cars, and economic competition in the EU

In recent months, certain Member States have introduced programmes providing state subsidies for the disposal of old cars when new cars are purchased. The level of these subsidies, who is entitled to receive them, and the types and minimum ages of the automobiles covered by these programmes vary significantly. In the European Union there is now a group of countries that have yet to introduce such programmes and a group of countries where these programmes are already in operation. Moreover, in the countries that have introduced this state aid, there are fundamental differences in the parameters that apply to it. In connection with this situation, I take this opportunity to put the following questions to the Commission:

1. Are the programmes providing state subsidies for the disposal of old automobiles when purchasing a new car in line with European law? If not, what steps does the Commission intend to take on the matter?
2. Would it not be appropriate, in the interests of safeguarding fair economic competition on the single European car market, for the Commission to propose uniform rules for these types of state support?