

**Question for written answer E-007804/2011
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Odometer fraud

Every year odometer fraud affects millions of EU citizens who buy used vehicles. A recent study¹ of more than a thousand vehicles exported from Belgium to France revealed that 43% of them had been tampered with so as to reduce their mileage by an average of 91 000 km. The German police authorities estimate that a third of used vehicles have had their odometers tampered with; many of these cars come from other European countries.

The aforementioned study puts the total cost of odometer fraud at between EUR 1.5 billion and EUR 2.9 billion per year in Germany, the Netherlands, France and Luxembourg alone. The German police authorities, which recently uncovered a major transnational fraud network, estimate consumer losses at EUR 5.4 billion per year in Germany alone. In 2010 the UK Office of Fair Trading arrived at a figure of GBP 580 million per year.

Some Member States – such as the Netherlands and Belgium, with its Car-Pass system – have taken action to combat odometer fraud, which involves full-blown organised networks. The systems introduced in these two Member States have significantly reduced the scale of the problem, with the level of fraud in Belgium falling from 8.6% of vehicles sold in 2006 to 0.2% today.

However, only concerted action at the EU level will be able to curb this inherently cross-border problem. At the Cars 2010 international conference², experts from across the EU called on the Commission and Parliament to take immediate action to stop odometer fraud.

Is the Commission aware of the scale of odometer fraud and its impact on EU citizens?

Does it acknowledge that this is an issue which calls for a Europe-wide response involving the EU? What measures does it think should be taken to address this alarming problem?

Is it prepared to consider all proposals aimed at putting a stop to, or significantly reducing, this type of crime?

¹ 'Impact study of mileage fraud with used cars & Adaptability of the Car-Pass model in other EU countries', Car-Pass, October 2010.

² www.cars2010.eu.