

**Question for written answer E-008870/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Patricia van der Kammen (NI)

Subject: The Commission's toleration of France's protection of the car industry

According to a report in the media today, the Commission is allowing France to protect its car industry to a considerable extent: it is permitting France to block the sale and registration of new Mercedes-Benz cars. The protectionist attitude which France is evidently always free to adopt is a well-known phenomenon by now: for example, France has on several occasions protected its car industry by means of State aid.

1. Is the Commission aware of the report that the Commission is permitting France to ban Mercedes-Benz cars¹?
2. Is it true that the Commission is permitting France to close its market to Mercedes-Benz cars from Germany on the far-fetched pretext that a coolant is being used which has not been approved by the EU?

According to the German vehicle manufacturer, the coolant which Brussels wishes to see used in the car is not safe enough.

3. Does the Commission consider that the safety of cars is less important than a non-existent climate problem?
4. Does the Commission agree with the PVV that the German car industry is absolutely right to regard safety as paramount?

According to the article, Brussels has threatened to bring legal action against Germany for breaching European rules by using a different coolant because the coolant approved by the EU has not passed the safety tests.

5. Has the Commission finally come to appreciate that Brussels' legislation and its mania for regulation are sheer madness?
6. Does the Commission agree with the PVV that the EU project has failed and that powers of decision should be returned to the Member States? If not, why not?

¹ <http://www.nu.nl/economie/3527904/brussel-staat-franse-ban-mercedes-benz-toe.html>