

**Question for written answer E-010164/2013
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Mojca Kleva Kekuš (S&D)

Subject: Large-scale selling of lubricating oils and liquid lubricants to natural persons

Many lubricants (engine oil, hydraulic oil, greases, gearbox oil, differential oil, etc.) are sold in unrestricted quantities online or in shops directly to natural persons. Legal persons registered to service motor vehicles have for several years been obliged to furnish documentary evidence to the appropriate inspectorate clearly showing that waste engine oil has been duly delivered to the agencies authorised to destroy or decompose it.

Unlike legal persons, natural persons can now easily buy large quantities of lubricants online or in retail stores in Member States; once that has happened, all trace of the lubricants is lost. It is consequently impossible to ascertain whether used engine oil has been properly destroyed or recycled. Leaving aside the increased risk of environmental pollution, the fact that the purchase of lubricants for natural persons is not subject to supervision or quantitative restrictions is creating a rich source of profit for the shadow economy in the vehicle servicing business.

Legal persons often buy lubricants outside their home countries, but eco-tax rates vary from one Member State to another. Furthermore, eco-tax is paid in the country where a lubricant goes on sale. That being the case, the price charged by a seller (for example in Germany) to a buyer from, say, Slovenia will exclude eco-tax, as the final consumption of the lubricant will not have taken place in the seller's country (in other words Germany). The fact that the market price is reduced by the amount of eco-tax gives rise, once again, to unfair competition.

1. Does European legislation provide for inspection of, or any form of authorisation arrangement for, mass sales of lubricants to natural persons through online shops or retail stores in Member States? When large quantities of lubricants are bought by, or sold to, natural persons, is there any requirement to produce documents or other evidence concerning the proper destruction or recycling of waste engine oil?
2. As the EU endeavours to curb the informal economy, will steps also be taken to restrict large-scale selling of lubricants to natural persons, standardise the eco-tax rate chargeable per kilogram of lubricating oil and liquid lubricant, and improve the oversight of eco-tax collection in cases where buyers purchase lubricants in Member States other than their home country?