

**Question for written answer E-000528/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Eleonora Evi (EFDD), Laura Agea (EFDD), David Borrelli (EFDD), Marco Zullo (EFDD), Marco Valli (EFDD), Ignazio Corrao (EFDD), Isabella Adinolfi (EFDD), Dario Tamburrano (EFDD) and Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD)**

Subject: Tests on diesel engine exhaust fumes and use of human and animal guinea-pigs

According to numerous reports in the press<sup>1</sup>, the European Research Group on Environment and Health in the Transport Sector, supported by Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW, have commissioned tests on diesel engine exhaust fumes involving human and animal guinea-pigs.

25 people allegedly inhaled nitrogen oxides (NOx) for three hours a day for four consecutive weeks at a University of Aachen clinic in 2014.

A similar experiment was apparently carried out for four hours on 10 monkeys in a laboratory in Albuquerque (USA) in 2015.

The above-mentioned companies were thus seeking to refute the 2012 WHO studies on the carcinogenicity of exhaust fumes.

Pointing out that 37 million diesel cars, polluting over the legal limits, are circulating in the EU, contributing to the 75 000 premature deaths caused each year by NO<sub>2</sub> alone, as found by the European Environment Agency<sup>2</sup>, we hereby call on the Commission to condemn these experiments, which are abominable and unjustifiable in every respect.

Will the Commission raise this issue with the companies and authorities concerned and ascertain whether there has been any breach of EU legislation on the dignity of the individual and on the protection of animals in scientific procedures (should the animal tests have been replicated in Europe)?

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<sup>1</sup> See, for example, the following articles: [http://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/impresa-e-territori/2018-01-29/volkswagen-daimler-e-bmw-test-gas-scarico-cavie-umane-e-scimmie--130504.shtml?uuid=AEyx7gqD&refresh\\_ce=1](http://www.ilsole24ore.com/art/impresa-e-territori/2018-01-29/volkswagen-daimler-e-bmw-test-gas-scarico-cavie-umane-e-scimmie--130504.shtml?uuid=AEyx7gqD&refresh_ce=1) <http://www.lastampa.it/2018/01/28/societa/lazampa/animal-i-gas-di-scarico-testati-sulle-scimmie-volkswagen-bmw-e-daimler-sotto-accusa-m4XtWNx5obgdPY718Jd0H/pagina.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/air-quality-in-europe-2017>