

**Question for written answer E-004381/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Julie Lechanteux (ID)**

Subject: The ethics of driverless cars

The emergence of driverless vehicles has thrown a spotlight on the ethical choices involved.

'The Moral Machine Experiment', a 2018 study published in Nature, highlights how, with the rapid development of artificial intelligence, concerns have arisen about how machines will be required to make moral decisions, and about society's expectations with regard to the ethical principles that should guide the behaviour of machines.

For example, in the event of an accident, driverless vehicles will decide which lives to save based on certain characteristics of potential victims: age, physical condition, vehicle owner, pedestrian, cyclist, animal, etc.

This is a real moral dilemma, as in a fraction of a second the on-board computer will make a decision and the driver will have no time to intervene.

A vital choice, in the true sense of the word, that cannot be left to the calculated decision of an algorithm.

Given the fundamental importance of road safety and that the need to save lives must guide the choices we make, what guidelines can the Commission propose in this regard?