

**Question for written answer E-004320/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Petra De Sutter (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Effectiveness of periodic vehicle roadworthiness tests for the detection of soot filter tampering

Directive 2014/45/EU on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers ¹ provides for exhaust gas opacity measurement. However, it is hard for Belgian inspectors using currently available opacity measurement technology to determine whether particulate filters are in fact functioning properly, making it difficult if not impossible to detect soot filter tampering.

One solution might be the use of PN meters or particle counters that measure particulate matter per cubic centimetre, making it possible to gauge emissions precisely. Directive 2014/45/EU states that it should be possible for alternative equipment reflecting technological progress and innovation to be used, provided that an equivalent high-quality level of testing is ensured.

Does the Commission consider that PN meters meet these conditions and can be regarded as equivalent alternative equipment under the provisions of Directive 2014/45/EU?

¹ Directive 2014/45/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers and repealing Directive 2009/40/EC, OJ L 127, 29.4.2014, p. 51.