

**Question for written answer E-005274/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Protecting European consumers in light of car shortages at dealerships

The global microchip shortage is affecting a large part of European industry and the automotive sector in particular.

This semiconductor scarcity is causing shortages at European car dealerships due to a fall in production which leads to stock shortages, delayed deliveries and breaches of consumer contracts.

With no immediate solution in sight, this situation could continue for a further year and a half, according to the Commission's own projections.

This problem has come to the fore at a time when Europe is in the midst of the process of decarbonising mobility, in which new environmental requirements are being used to encourage the purchase of cleaner cars, to establish new standards to be met by consumers and to dissuade the use of older and more polluting cars.

Consequently, while consumers are being encouraged to buy new cars, these shortages and supply bottlenecks leave them at risk of contracts not being honoured.

In the light of the above, we should like to ask the following questions:

1. Is the Commission aware of this vulnerable situation that consumers find themselves in?
2. In view of this situation, does the Commission plan to take any measures to protect consumers and ensure compliance with environmental standards?