

**Question for written answer E-005631/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Delays in the automotive sector and microchip shortages

The automotive industry is going through a serious crisis: in October alone, new vehicle registrations in Europe plunged by 29.3% compared to 2020.

The causes are mostly related to problems in the supply chain, which has been slowed down by supply that is unable to cover the resumption in demand growth after the recent lockdown. This, together with soaring energy prices, is also contributing to inflationary pressure.

The most critical situation concerns microchips, which are imported by mainly Asian suppliers and are essential in the latest generation of cars, which have a much higher number of electronic components than in the past.

The Commissioner for Competition has recently confirmed that, through a future revision of competition policy instruments, he could finance the production of these microchips in Europe, given that they are vital for industries and increasingly strategic also in the fields of artificial intelligence and the digital revolution.

In view of this:

1. What timely measures does the Commission intend to take in order to prevent bottlenecks in the automotive sector from continuing to cause delays and price rises for final consumers?
2. Will it initiate discussions with industrial groups in the automotive sector in order to prevent the current crisis from adversely affecting employment levels in the sector?