

**Question for written answer E-000559/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Alfred Sant (S&D)

Subject: Licencing, protection of intellectual property rights, connected cars and a level playing field for EU companies in foreign markets

The Commission regularly includes provisions on intellectual property rights in free trade and economic partnership agreements with non-EU countries. To ensure the success of these agreements, such provisions should be respected, effectively implemented and enforced.

Patented 4G/5G standard technology enables wireless connectivity for the internet of things, including millions of connected vehicles. The uneven treatment of 4G/5G standard essential patent (SEP) rights causes competitive distortion and is unfair to EU companies that pay for these rights when their competitors do not.

In this regard:

1. What progress has the Commission made in discussions with non-EU governments (of Japan, South Korea, the United States etc.) on issues of effective protection and enforcement of SEP rights?
2. Has the Commission informed non-EU governments that a failure by non-EU car manufacturers to fulfil SEP licencing obligations would constitute a distortion of the competitive level playing field vis-à-vis EU car manufacturers that have the necessary SEP licences, and what commitments has it received?
3. What concrete measures are being taken to ensure a competitive level playing field between EU car manufacturers that pay for the necessary SEP licences and their competitors whose unlicensed use of the same SEPs creates competitive distortion?