As mentioned in its reply to the Written Question E-000559/2022¹, the Commission is holding bilateral discussions with a number of countries in the context of different working groups or meetings related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), such as IP Dialogues, IP Working Groups, etc. The format of these meetings depends on the existence and nature of the economic agreements concluded with the third countries. Policy developments of a general nature related to standard essential patents (SEPs) have been discussed with third countries, including Japan, the United States, South Korea in this context.

Stakeholders are consulted before the bilateral meetings with third countries to allow them to express their views and raise concerns. Some specific issues related to SEPs have been raised by stakeholders ahead of the bilateral meetings, notably with regard to China, but not related to the SEPs licensing in the automotive sector specifically.

Due to the limited input from industry so far, no dedicated discussions on the issue of SEPs licensing in the automotive sector in third countries have been held to date. The Commission will consider discussing further SEPs related issues in its future meetings with third countries, taking into account the input from stakeholders.