

**Question for written answer E-001571/2022  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Alfred Sant** (S&D)

**Subject:** Follow-up to Written Question E-000559/2022 on licencing, protection of intellectual property rights, connected cars and a level playing field for EU companies

Following up on the Commission's reply to Written Question E-000559/2022 on licencing, protection of intellectual property rights, connected cars and a level playing field for EU companies in foreign markets, and taking into account that while most EU and EU-owned automotive brands are now licensed under Avanci's 4G programme, many non-EU car makers are still not licensed<sup>1</sup>. This time can the Commission specifically answer the three precise questions below:

1. What progress has the Commission made in discussions with non-EU governments (of Japan, South Korea, the United States, etc.) on the issues of the effective protection and enforcement of standard essential patent (SEP) rights?
2. Has the Commission informed non-EU governments that a failure by non-EU car manufacturers to fulfil SEP licensing 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?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fosspatents.com/2022/03/acer-ip-bridge-patent-infringement.html>