

**Question for written answer E-001917/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elisabetta Gualmini (S&D)

Subject: Positioning of high-voltage battery disconnect units in electric vehicles to protect first responders and fire officers

Car manufacturers decide where to position battery disconnect units (BDUs) in electric cars, and that position varies according to the vehicle model. The fact that BDUs are not always in the same position in electric cars in the EU creates a problem for first responders, and in particular for fire officers, who when handling emergencies have to use special databases and applications to swiftly locate the BDU in the vehicle involved in the accident, increasing rescue time and adding to the safety risk both for the emergency responders and for those involved in the accident.

Since a growing proportion of the EU car fleet is due to be electric by 2035, this is a critical issue.

In the light of the above:

1. Is the Commission considering introducing common standards across the EU, requiring manufacturers of electric-vehicles to place BDUs in identical positions in vehicles?
2. What legislative instrument does it intend to use to introduce these common requirements?

Submitted: 14.6.2023