

**Question for written answer E-000830/2024/rev.1  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Impact of touchscreens in cars on road safety

Physical buttons are increasingly disappearing from new cars and being replaced by touchscreens. The European New Car Assessment Programme (Euro NCAP) has drawn attention to the negative impact of this development, arguing that central touchscreens force drivers to take their eyes off the road and increase the risk of accidents. The organisation has therefore announced that from 2026 onwards its five-star rating will only be given to cars that retain physical control of the five key vehicle functions: direction indicators, hazard lights, windscreen wipers, horn and SOS functions<sup>1</sup>.

The five-star safety rating is a strong asset that can mobilise car manufacturers to return to traditional buttons and knobs, but Euro NCAP, as an independent crash test organisation, cannot impose such an obligation. Does the Commission intend to introduce rules obliging car manufacturers to return to physical controls for key functions in new vehicles?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/stop-making-dangerous-touchscreens-car-firms-told-xv3gmpdc6>