Question for oral answer O-000013/2018
to the Commission
Rule 128

Subject: Investigation in the wake of the Dieselgate 2.0 scandal

On 25 and 29 January 2018 respectively, the New York Times and the Stuttgarter Zeitung revealed that the European Research Group on Environment and Health in the Transport Sector (EUGT), a body financed by the European carmakers Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW and the component manufacturer Bosch, tested the diesel engines of new vehicles in 2014 and 2015 by making humans and monkeys inhale their exhaust fumes in an attempt to show that these vehicles – which had in any case been tampered with by the manufacturers to bring them into line with EU standards – did not pose a threat to health.

The tests, which did not pursue any kind of valid scientific objective and which knowingly put the health of human beings and animals at risk, represent a flagrant violation of the Treaties and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which stipulate that human dignity and the integrity of humans and of animals must be upheld, and of the spirit and the letter of Regulation (EU) No 536/2014 on clinical trials on medicinal products for human use and of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

Is the Commission planning to carry out a thorough investigation into these practices and their compatibility with EU law, and will it open infringement proceedings if necessary?

Given that this latest scandal has shown that the current legal framework is failing to safeguard the integrity of human beings and animals in the context of scientific research, will the Commission conduct a comprehensive review of the legal framework and monitoring procedures in place?

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