

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1031/03
by Danielle Darras (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Compliance with deadlines for application of the rules on emissions by the heavy-duty vehicle industry

I have received many letters drawing my attention to the problems likely to be faced by the heavy-duty vehicle industry in complying with the application dates for the rules on polluting emissions.

The Euro 4 standard for emissions by commercial vehicles will come into force in 2005. According to Directive 1999/96/EC the Commission was to submit a proposal by 31 December 2000 on the following three points:

- the rules governing the introduction of an on-board diagnostics (OBD) system to monitor permanently the efficiency of emission control systems;
- provisions on the durability of emission control devices;
- provisions to ensure the conformity of in-service vehicles with rules on pollution.

However, it would appear that two years after the date set the Commission has yet to publish a text. And yet it is absolutely essential for the industry to have such a text, so that it can immediately set in motion the technical measures needed if it is to meet the 2005 deadline.

Can the Commission say whether or not it has published a text and, if not, give the planned date of publication?