

WRITTEN QUESTION P-1978/06
by Poul Rasmussen (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Proposal for a Council Directive on passenger car related taxes, COM(2005) 261

CO₂ emissions from cars are a serious environmental problem in Europe. Alternative solutions such as public transport and increased use of bicycles have been overlooked in favour of more and more cars, with serious implications for the citizens and cities of Europe.

In its proposal for a directive on passenger car related taxes, the Commission argues in favour of abolishing registration tax. Some aspects of this argument require clarification.

A high registration tax appears to have the effect of reducing the number of cars per inhabitant, thereby lowering CO₂ emissions. Can the Commission provide comparative figures for the EU-25, Sweden, Germany, Italy and Denmark for the number of cars per inhabitant and, based on that, total CO₂ emissions per inhabitant/car in the abovementioned Member States?

If registration tax in Denmark is converted to other types of tax, does the Commission expect that to lead to a higher rate of renewal of the car fleet? Is the total car fleet in Denmark also expected to increase if the tax is restructured?

The Commission's proposal calls for greater use of diesel cars to achieve the CO₂ target. Since diesel cars produce emissions of a number of harmful particulates, this position is not consistent with an overall environmental perspective unless particle filters are installed. Does the Commission intend to call for the installation of particle filters in diesel cars?