

**Question for written answer P-007556/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Françoise Grossetête (PPE)

Subject: Anti-competitive practices in the MACs (mobile air-conditioning systems) sector

Following the adoption of the Directive on MACs in 2006, the refrigerant gas 134a which had been used until then was abandoned by car manufacturers in favour of a more environmentally-friendly alternative: gas 1234yf.

At the same time, a broad portfolio of patents entirely covering the use of this gas has been filed by the US firm Honeywell, but this patented technology cannot be licensed under 'fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory' conditions.

These unfair practices exclude any form of competition in the 1234yf gas market, and this is reflected in rising prices, which are hurting car manufacturers and consumers. Moreover, this situation is also having a negative impact on investment and employment in the European chemical industry.

In view of these anti-competitive practices, what measures does the Commission intend to take to make the gas 1234yf more accessible and thus ensure respect for consumer choice and fair competition and prices?