Priority question for written answer P-003563/2022 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Just Transition Fund II for automotive regions

As established in the sustainable and smart mobility strategy, in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and achieve the intermediate target for the reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030, the internal combustion engine (ICE) needs to be phased out by 2035.

Europe must lead the transition to electric vehicles (EVs), while taking into account that this transition will come with costs. According to industry predictions, while 226 000 new jobs are forecast in EV power-train production, a net loss of 275 000 jobs is still projected from 2020 to 2040. The situation is especially critical among ICE power-train component producers, with 501 000 jobs in this area expected to become obsolete by 2035.

In light of this, Parliament has requested the Commission¹ to establish a funding instrument to support regions that are particularly vulnerable owing to the presence of an intensive automotive industry.

Considering the similarities between the job losses in the coal- and carbon-intensive sectors and the automotive sector, is the Commission planning to create a funding instrument similar to the Just Transition Fund to mitigate these losses, including by supporting the reskilling of employees?

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Cf. amendment 33 (concerning recital 24) to the Commission proposal of 14 July 2021 for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2019/631 as regards strengthening the CO₂ emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles in line with the Union's increased climate ambition (COM(2021)0556). Texts adopted, P9_TA(2022)0234.