

**Priority question for written answer P-002146/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Elsi Katainen (Renew)

Subject: Shortcomings of the VECTO simulation tool in the case of vehicles towing heavier vehicle combinations

The VECTO simulation tool has been developed by the Commission to determine the CO₂ emissions and fuel consumption of heavy-duty vehicles with a gross vehicle weight above 3500 kg. VECTO is used, for example, in the revised CO₂ standards for heavy-duty vehicles proposal¹, which the Commission published in February 2023. However, the current simulation does not realistically take into account the vehicles used for towing heavier vehicle combinations over 60 tonnes and gives them disproportionately large calculated emissions. This is a problem, since the energy efficiency and emissions of these vehicles are not being calculated correctly. Such vehicles are used in multiple Member States and their usage is increasing. The VECTO simulation tool's development should therefore better reflect this.

Therefore:

1. Why does the current VECTO simulation not reflect the higher payloads and different mission profiles of vehicles used for towing heavy combinations over 60 tonnes realistically?
2. When does the Commission foresee a revision or an update of the VECTO simulation?
3. Will the Commission take these vehicles better into account in the VECTO in the future?

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¹ COM(2023)0088.