

**Question for written answer E-002583/2025/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: Illegal import of cars from the United Kingdom to Cyprus via Bulgaria

There has been an increase in the number of cases of second-hand vehicles being illegally imported from the United Kingdom into the Republic of Cyprus via third countries, mainly Bulgaria. Some cases show that administrative loopholes and rules governing the movement of vehicles in the EU are being exploited to avoid customs and fiscal checks. These practices undermine public security, tax fairness and transparency in the second-hand vehicle market.

In particular, the legislation does not allow vehicles to be imported into the Republic of Cyprus from a non-EU country when the vehicle is over 5 years old. However, some people buy vehicles that are more than 5 years old from the United Kingdom, drive them to Bulgaria, where they register them with Bulgarian plates and then export them to Cyprus, mainly via the port of Piraeus.

I am therefore referring to information on networks which, by means of the procedures outlined, register vehicles that are more than 5 years old that had been driving on British roads as Bulgarian – that is to say, as European – with the aim of subsequently exporting them to Cyprus.

In light of the concerns expressed above, can the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of these practices and the dangers they pose?
2. Does it intend to strengthen the framework for cooperation between customs authorities in the Member States to deal with such phenomena?
3. What measures does it propose to ensure the traceability of a vehicle's movements between countries in the EU?

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