Question for written answer E-003983/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Beatrice Timgren (ECR), Dick Erixon (ECR)

Subject: Review of the 2035 de facto ban on combustion engines

The EU's 2035 de facto ban on new cars with internal combustion engines was highly controversial even when adopted. Many warned that it ignored technological realities, underestimated social and economic costs, and would undermine the EU's industrial base. These warnings have since been proven correct.

Since 2022, energy prices have soared, supply chains have shifted and global competition – especially from China – has intensified. Major Member States, including Italy and Germany, now call for a re-examination of the 2035 target[1]. Manufacturers also warn that the 2035 target 'is no longer feasible', placing jobs, innovation and emission integrity at risk[2].

A realistic, technology-neutral approach is urgently needed – one that maintains economic competitiveness rather than accelerating deindustrialisation.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission, by the end of this year, present a proposal to review or postpone the 2035 zero-emission target for new cars and vans, in the light of current economic and industrial realities, and if not, why not?

2. How will the Commission ensure genuine technological neutrality, allowing hybrid, hydrogen and synthetic-fuel solutions to compete on an equal footing?

3. Does the Commission acknowledge that safeguarding the EU's industrial competitiveness must be an integral part of any future revision of the EU's CO_2 standards for vehicles?

Submitted: 10.10.2025

[1] Hodgson R. and Genovese V., 'Italy, Germany join carmakers in call to rethink internal combustion engine ban', Euro News, 25 August 2024, https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/09/25/italy-germany-join-carmakers-in-call-to-rethink-internal-combustion-engine-ban.

[2] Blenkinsop P. and Lewis M., 'EU auto groups press for change to 'no longer feasible' car CO2 emission targets', Reuters, 27 August 2025, https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/eu-auto-groups-press-change-no-longer-feasible-car-co2-emission-targets-2025-08-27/.