

Question for written answer E-003809/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Virginie Joron (PfE)

Subject: Low-emission zones: automatic fines being imposed by Belgian towns and cities on French and European cars

French motorists are being fined between EUR 150 and 350 euros in Antwerp, Belgium, even if their vehicles run on modern, compliant fuel (Euro 6), as the cameras in place apparently cannot read data from foreign number plates.

According to Antwerp's Deputy Mayor for the Environment, Karim Bachar, 'we cannot tell [from our cameras] what kind of vehicle a French driver is entering our city in, or whether it meets the standards. That is why, if you have a vehicle registered in France, you must register it in advance. If this is not done, a fine is imposed'¹.

Antwerp has imposed fines totalling more than EUR 7 million. Antwerp also charges a non-refundable fee of EUR 75 to register a compliant car when the fine is issued.

Across Europe, hundreds of towns and cities are imposing such an extortion scheme on a town-by-town basis, which is reminiscent of the medieval practice of multiple tolls.

1. Does the Commission consider it compatible with the free movement of goods and EU law² for a Member State to authorise its towns and villages to automatically impose fines on all vehicles registered in another European country?
2. Does the Commission consider that a fine of between EUR 150 and 350 and a registration fee of EUR 75 are proportionate for a compliant vehicle and an automated online procedure?
3. What measures is the Commission taking to prohibit these fines being imposed on compliant European vehicles on the sole pretext of a failure to register a car administratively?

Submitted: 23.9.2026

¹ <https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/fr/2026/04/21/plus-de-4-conducteurs-francais-sur-10-ecopent-dune-amende-dans-l/>.

² In accordance with Article 26(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the internal market comprises an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital must be ensured. The rules of the internal market should be transparent, simple, consistent and effective, thereby ensuring legal certainty and clarity in the interests of businesses and consumers.