

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001309/25
to the Commission
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(28 March 2025)

Subject: Europe's industrial and mobile heritage

Industrial and mobile heritage is a part of our European identity, representing the technological and social development that has shaped our continent. Preserving this heritage ensures that future generations can understand and appreciate Europe's industrial values. A key element of its preservation is the continued, but limited production of CO₂ based on the availability and use of fossil fuels necessary for the operation of heritage machinery and vehicles.

1. How does the Commission plan to take into account the specific needs of industrial and mobile heritage in the ongoing revision of the CO₂ Regulation and the EU Climate Law, ensuring that a limited and controlled production of CO₂ and supply of fossil fuels remains available for this purpose?
2. How does the Commission intend to avoid restrictions of cultural heritage fuels resulting from future regulatory developments and considering the importance of passing knowledge and expertise related to industrial and mobile heritage to future generations, and what measures does the Commission plan to support educational and promotional initiatives?
3. How does the Commission plan to bring industrial and mobile heritage to policy action and protection at a time when Europe needs to showcase its inventiveness, industrial ingenuity, creativity and historical achievements?

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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(3 June 2025)

The CO₂ emission performance standards regulation only concerns new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles. Heritage vehicles are therefore not affected by this regulation.

The European Climate Law ⁽¹⁾ concerns the overall EU greenhouse gas emissions. Since mobile heritage only represent an extremely small part of the existing stock, the economy-wide emissions reduction objectives are unlikely to affect those.

The Commission is committed to provide support to European industries, which are currently faced with high energy costs and fierce global competition.

The Clean Industrial Deal Communication ⁽²⁾ outlines concrete actions to turn decarbonisation into a driver of competitiveness. Specifically for the European automotive sector, the Commission has recently adopted an industrial plan ⁽³⁾, aimed to tackle the challenges caused by rapid technological changes and increasing competition.

The automotive industry is a core engine of European prosperity and an essential part of Europe's identity. The EU is committed to safeguarding and enhancing Europe's industrial and mobile heritage through a number of policies and programmes.

⁽¹⁾ <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1119/oj>.

⁽²⁾ COM(2025)85 final.

⁽³⁾ COM(2025)95 final.