

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003389/25
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(3 September 2025)**

Subject: Annual technical inspections of vehicles — what is the real motive behind the Commission's proposal?

At the end of April 2025, the Commission presented a package of measures to improve road safety. For vehicles older than 10 years, it proposes mandatory annual technical inspections, possibly including emissions testing, instead of the current two-year interval. The Commission expects this to save 7 000 lives and prevent 65 000 serious injuries by 2050, as it believes that the technical condition of vehicles is the primary cause of traffic accidents. ⁽¹⁾This is a rather bold claim, but experts reject it as unfounded and argue that accidents are more likely to be caused by human factors. ⁽²⁾

In this connection:

1. Given that experts are questioning the benefits of an increased frequency of inspections, how (i.e., based on what information) did the Commission arrive at the conclusion that annual technical inspections are necessary?
2. The proposal for annual inspections is just another administrative barrier which, together with other 'green proposals', will place an disproportionate financial burden on low-income groups in particular, for whom cars will become unaffordable. Is the Commission aware of the social impact of its proposals, or does it fail to see the problems that this and other similar proposals will cause for ordinary citizens because of the 'green dimension'?
3. How does the Commission plan to ensure that new cars are affordable for EU citizens, given that it wants to deprive them of the possibility of owning an older car by increasing the administrative and financial costs?

Submitted: 3.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(8 December 2025)**

The Commission appreciates the Honourable Member's interest in its proposal for annual technical inspections of vehicles older than 10 years and welcomes the opportunity to address the concerns raised.

The proposal is based on extensive consultations (including of experts), impact assessments, and evidence from numerous studies. Data indicates that older vehicles are more likely to have technical defects, which can contribute to road accidents and higher emissions.

The impact assessment also considered the findings of 16 Member States that already require annual inspections for older vehicles, which demonstrated significant safety and environmental benefits.

While human factors remain the primary cause of road accidents, addressing technical defects is a complementary measure to enhance road safety.

The Commission is mindful of the potential socioeconomic impact of the proposal, particularly on low-income groups. It is important to note that the cost of annual inspections is relatively modest compared to the overall cost of vehicle ownership.

Member States retain the flexibility to regulate inspection fees and implement measures to support vulnerable groups. The Commission encourages them to consider these aspects when implementing the legislative changes in order to ensure fairness and accessibility.

¹ <https://www.autoviny.sk/novinky/2762753/zmena-slovenskej-stk-novy-interval>

² <https://spravy.stvr.sk/2025/05/podla-ek-by-auta-starsie-ako-desat-rokov-mali-prejst-technickou-kontrolou-kazdy-rok-podla-experta-je-to-zbytocne/>

As for the affordability of new vehicles, the Commission is working with industry stakeholders to promote innovation and cost efficiency in the automotive sector. EU policies aim to support the production of affordable, sustainable vehicles.

The Commission also encourages Member States to explore incentives for the adoption of cleaner and safer vehicles, which can contribute to environmental and safety objectives.
