

EN

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Answer given by Mr Hoekstra
on behalf of the European Commission
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Over the period 2017-2024, vehicle prices in the EU have increased slightly faster than inflation. Various market dynamics impacted the sector, related to higher energy costs, shortage of key components such as chips, and lower domestic demand, which impacted price and cost structures in the automotive sector. The Commission's impact assessment for the revision of the CO₂ standards for cars and vans¹ shows cost impacts and confirms that electric vehicles have a cheaper total cost of ownership, due to lower operating costs.

The Commission has taken measures to support the competitiveness of EU industry and stimulate the deployment of affordable clean vehicles, in particular via the Action Plan for the European automotive sector² and the Automotive Package³, which includes an Omnibus that will bring annual cost cuts of about EUR 700 million for industry, and a Battery Booster to enhance cost competitiveness of the EU battery value chain. Such measures also include the Industrial Accelerator Act⁴, Action Plan for Affordable Energy⁵ and the Critical Raw Materials Act⁶.

The proposal to amend the CO₂ standards for cars and vans provides industry with more flexibility, enhancing technology neutrality while maintaining a strong signal towards zero-emission mobility, which is key to competitiveness as electric vehicles is the only growing segment globally. It also supports the deployment of small affordable electric cars through 'super credits'.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=CELEX:52025SC1058>.

² https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/action-plan-future-automotive-sector_en.

³ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-themes/action-plan-future-automotive-sector/automotive-package_en.

⁴ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/industrial-accelerator-act_en.

⁵ https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/action-plan-affordable-energy-unlocking-true-value-our-energy-union-secure-affordable-efficient-and_en.

⁶ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202401252.