

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003552/26
to the Commission
Elena Donazzan (ECR)
(8 September 2026)**

Subject: Concerns at the safety of Chinese-manufactured vehicles owing to short development times

In China, new vehicles are now being brought to market in around two years and the Chinese automotive industry has claimed that artificial intelligence could bring this down to under 18 months. In the West, development times range from three to five years, a fact that also compromises industrial competitiveness. China's reduced development times, at the whim of their car manufacturers, has raised serious concerns even amongst Beijing's own regulatory authorities as to the possible ramifications for vehicle safety and durability.

Given that Chinese-manufactured occupy a growing share of the European market:

1. Does the Commission believe the current European type-approval and surveillance system to be adequate to identify any risks related to the precipitous reduction in vehicle development cycles in China?
2. In what way is the long-term durability of Chinese vehicles on the EU market verified? Furthermore, given the concerns that have emerged in China, does the Commission intend to consider more stringent checks to ensure the safety of European consumers?
3. How does the Commission intend to address this issue, which, as well as being a safety concern, also places European industries at a competitive disadvantage?

Submitted: 8.9.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(22 October 2026)**

Motor vehicles must be EU type-approved in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/858 ⁽¹⁾ to be placed on the internal market and registered. The regulation sets out technical requirements to ensure a high level of safety and environmental protection of the vehicles.

These requirements equally apply to vehicles in mass production in third countries, such as China, that are imported into the internal market, thus ensuring a level playing field on safety between EU manufacturers and importers. Furthermore, the EU legislation is regularly amended to take account of technology development.

Member States play a crucial role in enforcing and checking the compliance of vehicles through their market surveillance activities. Specific risks related to Chinese-manufactured vehicles, if any, can be assessed and factored into the test campaigns carried out by national market surveillance authorities, including the Joint Research Centre on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission is currently evaluating the type-approval and market surveillance procedures laid down in the regulation and may propose legislative amendments, if appropriate.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02018R0858-20260802>.