



EUROPEAN CITIES AND REGIONS NETWORKING
FOR INNOVATIVE TRANSPORT SOLUTIONS



EUROPEAN
ENVIRONMENTAL
BUREAU



28 March 2017

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

During the April plenary you will vote on the **Type Approval Framework Regulation**, which is the biggest reform of the EU vehicle testing system in a decade. You will have a unique opportunity to make the system more independent, transparent and rigorous, restoring trust in our industry and avoiding any future emissions or safety scandals and thus their detrimental impact on public health.

Following the Dieselgate scandal, it has become apparent that one of the main short-comings of the European type approval system is a lack of independent and rigorous market surveillance of products placed on the market. Today it is the responsibility of the 28 member states, but many lack resources or expertise to carry it out – there had been no effective spot checks before the VW emissions scandal erupted in the US in September 2015. These shortcomings were similarly highlighted by the Parliament's VW Enquiry (EMIS) Committee in its final report adopted on 2 March 2017.

It is in the interests of the EU single market, fair competition and better allocation of resources that future market surveillance is undertaken at EU level. This would leverage resources and expertise, and target the spot checks in line with principles of risk assessment, e.g. based on complaints. We therefore call on you to **support the establishment of the new EU Market Surveillance Centre** in your vote on the Dalton report. This will not take power away from national type approval authorities, which will continue to approve vehicles for sale. Rather it will complement their work and ensure that an adequate and consistent compliance verification takes place regularly after the products have been approved – something Member States have consistently failed to do.

We believe such a centre can be easily funded by a small surcharge on the new vehicles sold across the EU and can rely on already existing lab capacity, such as the emissions facilities of the Joint Research Centre. It can also draw on the facilities of accredited technical services or independent testers for its duties.

It is time to ensure a level playing field for European industry and to ensure consumers finally get the products they were promised by legislation years ago. We hope you will support better enforcement by voting in favour of the European Market Surveillance Centre during the April plenary.

We remain at your disposal for any further information.

Kind regards,

ClientEarth



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