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Europe needs to tackle widespread mileage fraud in cars

At a workshop in the European Parliament, jointly organised by MEP Tomas Zdechovský and Belgian association Car-Pass, EU policy-makers and stakeholders discussed the issue of mileage fraud in cars. The fraudulent lowering of the mileage has become a rather simple and widespread manipulation, which can inflate a vehicle's value by several thousand Euros. This fraud, which appears to concern a significant proportion of second-hand cars, requires a European response.

MEP Tomas Zdechovský (Czech Republic, EPP) stressed that "mileage fraud affects millions of European consumers every year, costing them several billion Euros, as people pay substantially more than the real value of the frauded car and may also be faced with unexpected maintenance cost. We intend to push for action in the European Parliament and call on the European Commission to move forward on this issue".

Luke Lloyd from market research company GfK presented the "[Study](#) on the functioning of the market for second hand cars from a consumer perspective", which was carried out on behalf of the European Commission. Odometer fraud was identified as "a major issue that the European Union is well placed to address" in particular because of cross-border fraud, which is hard to trace without more international cooperation on preventive measures. Throughout the report, the Belgian Car-Pass system is mentioned as exemplary for providing an official certificate of a vehicle's mileage history to the buyer.

Michel Peelman, Managing Director of Car-Pass, said: "Car-Pass was one of the signatories of the [Joint Appeal](#) against mileage fraud in 2014. Now that this immense problem has been clearly identified, we stand ready to work hand-in-hand with all stakeholders and EU policy-makers, to share Belgium's experience and deliver concrete results for all European motorists and consumers".

MEP Deirdre Clune (Ireland, EPP) concluded the workshop stating that strong action is required to tackle mileage fraud. Indeed, "thanks to the well-functioning single market cars are traded across borders, and so should the relevant information about these cars". Although Member States can take action on a national basis, the MEP stressed that this is a Europe-wide phenomenon in need of a European solution or at least some coordination across the EU. "I believe the EU should only step in where it has a strong "added value" – but here we have a clear case where all European consumers would benefit from a European initiative".

Note to the editors

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