

**Question for written answer E-000496/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Kathleen Van Brempt (S&D)

Subject: Use of the 'Dutch reach'

Vulnerable road users are more at risk in traffic than motorists. They are more likely to be severely injured in the event of an accident or collision. We must therefore make every effort to protect them as effectively as possible.

Every year in Belgium alone, there are more than 300 accidents where a cyclist or moped rider is hit by a vehicle door opened from within the vehicle. The 'Dutch reach' technique may provide a solution here. This involves opening the vehicle door using the hand furthest from the door handle. In so doing, the person opening the door automatically looks over their shoulder so that they can more easily see any approaching vulnerable road user. In the UK, it is now mandatory to use this technique.

1. Has the Commission looked into this technique and if so, what factors were studied and what were its findings?
2. Is the Commission planning to include this measure in forthcoming legislation and is it also considering making it obligatory?
3. Are 'physical' measures also being considered, such as requiring manufacturers to place the door handle further back, say some 20 cm, thus automatically obliging the motorist to perform the Dutch reach?

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