



## Joint appeal to Members of the European Parliament

### **Protect European consumers against odometer manipulation Massive fraud in most of Europe should no longer be tolerated**

Brussels, 6 October 2014

Artificially lowering the mileage of a car is a technically simple, cheap manipulation, which can inflate a vehicle's value by several thousand euros. Known more commonly as mileage fraud, it affects a considerable number of used cars in Europe - estimates go as high as 30%, costing European consumers approximately €5.6 to €9.6 billion per year in a conservative scenario (1) and perhaps much more (2).

The difficulty in guaranteeing a used car's mileage makes it impossible to assess the true value of second-hand cars, leading to a consistently high level of consumer mistrust (3). Mileage fraud thereby severely distorts the second-hand car market, tarnishes the reputation of car dealers, may negatively impact the environment and road safety and also lead to tax fraud. These fraudsters are profiting to the detriment of society at large.

The Roadworthiness Tests Directive adopted in April 2014 (4) makes odometer manipulation a punishable offense across the EU. The European Commission will investigate the feasibility of an electronic vehicle information platform to allow for the exchange of vehicle data between Member States. Fraud, however, mostly affects recent vehicles with high mileage and tampering occurs before the car's first technical inspection. In a few countries, national mileage databases containing additional mileage information from dealers and repairers protect domestic consumers, but cannot provide guarantees for imported or exported cars. Technology exists today, which could secure the mileage reading in the vehicle, making odometer tampering technically very difficult and costly. However, this will only affect future models and not the millions of cars already circulating in Europe.

**We believe it is time to act.** While some Member States have found national solutions, mileage fraud is a European problem and should be tackled as such. We therefore call on you, as representatives of European citizens, to follow up on the European Parliament's previous appeal to ensure a high level of consumer protection in the second-hand car market (5), putting an end to this scam by:

- Drafting an own initiative report on the impact of odometer tampering on European consumers and for the functioning of the Single Market
- Commissioning or supporting research assessing the overall costs of mileage fraud for European society at large and analysing the most efficient ways to solve the problem
- Calling upon the European Commission to prevent odometer manipulation through its policy tools

Any measure should be taken in compliance with data protection legislation and not impose disproportionate costs or bureaucracy.

**We very much hope that you will be supporting this call for action. Billions of euros are at stake; millions of Europeans are victims of this scam every year. You have the power to put an end to it!**

If you would like to know more, or explore concrete actions, please contact any of the undersigned.



**FIA - Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile**

**Region I**

Thierry Willemarck  
President

**CARPOL – EU Police Network for Tackling  
vehicle crime**

H.J. Graafland  
Coordinator

**EReg - Association of European Vehicle and  
Driver Registration Authorities**

Camille Gonderinger  
Chairman

**CITA - International Motor Vehicle Inspection**

**Committee**

Johan Cobbaut  
President

**CECRA - European Council for Motor Trades &**

**Repairs**

Bernard Lycke  
Director General

**RDW**

Johan Hakkenberg  
CEO

**Car-Pass asbl**

Michel Peelman  
CEO

**References:**

1. Impact study of mileage fraud with used cars (CRM Used Car Management - 2010),
2. Münchener Kriminalpolizei - Der Spiegel (16.3.2010) & Süddeutsche Zeitung (17.3.2010)
3. European Commission (DG SANCO), 2012 Consumer Markets Scoreboard
4. Roadworthiness Directive, 2014/45/EU (in particular articles 5.4, 8.6 & 16)
5. The European Parliament resolution of 10 December 2013 on CARS 2020: towards a strong, competitive and sustainable European car industry (in particular point 58)