

## **EU LEGISLATION UPDATE**

**December 2008/January 2009**



### **RELEVANT FOR DIALOGUE**

#### **European Commission moves on Intelligent Transport Systems**

The European Commission has proposed a plan for the enhanced deployment and use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in road transport. The action is designed to contribute to a cleaner, safer and more efficient transport system and includes a timeframe to implement a range of measures amongst which are proposed actions to:

- Set procedures to provide realtime traffic and travel information service
- Optimise the collection and provision of road data and traffic circulation plans, traffic regulations and recommended routes
- Ensure free provision of minimum universal traffic information services
- Define a set of common procedures and specifications to ensure the continuity of ITS services for passenger and freight in transport corridors and in urban/interurban regions
- Support the wider deployment of an updated ITS Framework architecture for intelligent transport systems and for urban transport mobility (integration for travel planning, transport demand, traffic management, emergency management, road pricing, and the use of parking and public transport facilities)
- Implement interoperability of electronic road toll systems
- Promote deployment of advanced driver assistance systems and safety and security-related ITS systems, including their installation in new vehicles (via type approval) and, if relevant, their retrofitting in used ones.

FIVA has made clear in the past that ITS systems may not be appropriate or compatible with historic vehicles. FIVA will therefore contribute to the debate in the European Parliament, in particular highlighting the fact that retrofitting should not be an option for consideration due to the practical implications.

#### **European Parliament Committee supports new EU tyre noise proposal**

The European Parliament's Internal Market Committee has proposed a number amendments to the European Commission's proposal (which amongst other matters aims) to amend existing tyre design rules in order to reduce road noise (see EU issues April-May 2008 and October-November updates). The EP has proposed to make stricter the noise and rolling resistance standards for road

vehicle tyres, but has not changed the exemption which applies to “tyres designed only to be fitted to vehicles registered for the first time before [1 October 1990].” The Committee also proposed to exempt retreaded tyres from the wet grip, rolling resistance and rolling noise requirements on the grounds that it would be difficult to do so as many retreaders are small and medium sized enterprises which would face difficulties “coping with the costs and complexities associated with implementing these measures.”

### **Commissioners push for urban mobility plan**

European Commissioner for Transport, Antonio Tajani, has pledged to ensure the adoption of the delayed EU action plan on urban mobility before the end of the current European Commission mandate in June. The plan is expected to set out measures for “greening” urban transport, such as providing economic incentives to develop alternative fuels infrastructure and clean technologies and also help establish common urban road pricing initiatives. FIVA has previously contributed to this debate (see February-March 2008 update). In parallel, the EU Research Commissioner Janez Potočnik has called on the European road transport sector to provide "workable solutions" to the electrification of urban travel in particular to develop vehicles, infrastructure and services.

### **European Parliament approved paint stripper ban**

The European Parliament has supported a proposal made by the European Commission last year to ban the use of dichloromethane in paint strippers. The proposed ban will not apply to licensed professionals who will be allowed to continue to use dichloromethane in paint strippers under stricter conditions. This exemption is very important for historic train and building restorers – and also some vehicle restorers – as the banned product allows paint to be removed from wood surfaces without damaging the wood.

## **INFORMATION**

### **Czech Republic puts green tax on second-hand cars**

The Czech Republic Government has imposed an additional tax on the purchase of second-hand cars that do not meet Euro 3 class emission standards. The additional revenue will be used to fund used-car disposal.

### **European Commission has complained to Romania about its new car tax laws**

European Commission (DG Taxation) has written to the Romanian Government to highlight the Commission’s concerns that a new Romanian car tax regulation is not in line with EU legislation. The new law tripled the car tax for used-cars and suspended tax for new cars with Euro 4 engines of up to 2,000 cubic centimetres. It was imposed in response to a sudden increase in the used-car imports and a corresponding decrease in sale of new cars following the implementation in April of last year of a pollution tax for cars which was calculated on carbon dioxide emissions.

### **EU calls on Austria to restrict vehicle pollution reduction measures**

The European Court of Justice has ruled that a recent Austrian requirement that all imported second-hand cars meet emission standards stricter than those in force when the vehicles were originally registered are illegal.

### **Member states exceed air pollutant caps**

The European Environment Agency has released data suggesting that sixteen EU countries are likely to exceed existing national limits on emissions of at least one of four key air pollutants (nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, non-methane volatile organic compounds and ammonia) set for 2010 – with limits on NOx the most likely to be exceeded. The EEA says higher-than-expected growth in road transport is partly to blame. Meanwhile the European Commission is expected to propose a tightening the emission caps this year. It is also expected to propose the first-ever national caps on emissions of fine particulate matter (PM2.5).

### **ECJ condemns Luxembourg over air pollutant caps**

The European Court of Justice has condemned Luxembourg for failing to send predictions of emissions of four air pollutants in 2010 (see above) under the 2001 national emission ceilings directive (NECs) saying that the failure has made it impossible for the European Commission to review Luxembourg's progress towards the Directive's targets.

### **European Commission proposes to make petrol vapour technology mandatory**

The European Commission has proposed a Directive to require all newly-built petrol stations (except the very smallest) to install petrol vapour recovery equipment designed to reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds from pump nozzles when customers refuel their vehicles. The proposal aims to protect human health and the environment as the collected petrol vapour contains benzene, which carcinogenic and contributes to the formation of smog. Many petrol stations have already installed such equipment. The equipment does not pose difficulties for older vehicles.

### **Agreement on car CO2 emissions includes delay to complete implementation**

The European Council and European Parliament have finally agreed to impose an average CO2 emission limit of 130 grams per kilometre (g/km) to 65 per cent of the new car fleet in 2012, rising to 75 per cent in 2013, 80 per cent in 2014 and the whole fleet from 2015. The average limit will be shared among carmakers according to a mass-based formula devised by the which requires a greater reduction effort from makers of larger cars. An additional 10g/km reductions is also expected to result from measures such as an increased use of biofuels and eco-driving, in order to reach an overall average emission limit in the EU of 120g/km. The deal also requires the Commission to come forward with proposal to achieve a longer-term emission target of 95g/km in 2020. Environmental groups and the Green and Liberal Groups in the Parliament have criticised the deal as weak.

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The FIVA Legislation Commission members are: Winfried Kallinger (Chairman), Tiddo Bresters (Vice Chairman), Lars Genild (Vice Chairman), Patrick Rollet (Member/Secretary), Andrew Burt (Member), David Hurley (Member), Carla Fiocchi (Member), Zoltán Gárdos (Member), Adalberto Gueli (Member), Johann König (Member), Horst Brüning (Member coopted), Peeter Henning (Member coopted), and Andrew Turner of EPPA works with the Committee.