

EU ISSUES UPDATE

JUNE 2016



OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE

European Parliament Committee discusses the proposal to amend the Firearms Directive

On 13 July, the European Parliament's Internal Market Committee members will vote on the compromise amendments derived from the 800+ original amendments which have been tabled to the proposed change to the Firearms' Directive. Following the UK referendum vote to leave the EU, British MEP Vicky Ford has retained the rapporteurship and intends to manage the EP negotiations through to adoption of the Directive. Some other UK MEPs have resigned their rapporteurship of other proposals.

FIVA action: FIVA's Legislation Commission has previously asked ANFs to contact their MEPs who are members of the EP Internal Market Committee to encourage them to support the relevant amendments to good effect. At time of writing the compromise amendments are not yet available – once they are, the Legislation Commission will ask ANFs to again contact their MEPs on the Committee to support adoption of the amendments which will resolve the threat to the owners of historic military vehicles presented by the proposed Directive.

Consultation on the End of life Vehicle Directive to address "lost" vehicles

The European Commission has published a consultation to help identify and resolve problems associated with End of Life Vehicles whose whereabouts are not known. FIVA's input to the consultation will be of value as some of the issues to be addresses are: the loss of vehicles as a result of intra and EU trade, enforcement techniques to prevent illegal dismantling of vehicles and consumer awareness of the Directive's provisions.

Consultation on the European Commission Guidelines for LEZs

In June, FIVA contributed to consultation on the proposed Chapter 4 of the European Commission's Guidance document designed to help Member State authorities implement Low Emission Zones and other urban access restrictions for vehicles. Chapter 4 addresses the possible legal frameworks. FIVA's contribution has stressed the value of national legal frameworks which provide exemptions for historic vehicles and which allow a consistent nationwide approach to exemptions.

INFORMATION

Air pollution continues to be a significant problem

A report by UNECE has concluded that more than 95% of EU urban areas breach air pollution standards set by the EU and the World Health Organization (WHO) and has said that air quality

is now Europe's greatest health risk alongside its severe impact on ecosystems and biodiversity across the continent. The report in part blames the continued support for and high use of diesel cars. The report goes on to call for more ambitious air quality targets and to say that the EU must align its air quality and climate change policies as their broad scope to reduce fossil fuel consumption is the same.

Member states agreement for new car CO2 test

The European Commission and Member States have proposed that the Worldwide harmonised Light vehicles Test Procedures (WLTP) apply to all new cars and vans from 1 September 2017 and that from 1 September 2018 and that regulators should not be allowed to give type approval to any vehicles that do not comply. The decision has been welcomed by environment lobby groups which were concerned that the car manufacturers lobby would be able to further delay the implementation date of the new test; the groups have also published research showing that tightening the 2021 mandatory CO2 limit for new passenger cars from its current level of 95 grams of CO2 per kilometer to 78 g/km in 2025 and 60 g/km in 2030 would prevent 95 Mt of CO2 per year in 2030 and that the introduction of a similar performance standard for trucks for 2025 could prevent a further 17 Mt of CO2 being emitted by the transport sector per year in 2030.

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The FIVA Legislation Commission members are: Tiddo Bresters (Chairman), Claude Delagneau, Wolfgang Eckel, Peter Edqvist, Carla Fiocchi, Lars Genild, Adalberto Gueli, Peeter Henning, Johann König, Stanislav Minářík, Bob Owen, Christos Petridis and Andrew Turner of EPPA works with the Committee.