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COVER NOTE

from: Houses of the Oireachtas
date of receipt: 15 May 2013
to: General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

Subject: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers and repealing Directive 2009/40/EC
[doc. 12786/12 TRANS 249 CODEC 1954 - COM (2012) 380 final]
Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the technical roadside inspection of the roadworthiness of commercial vehicles circulating in the Union and repealing Directive 2000/30/EC
[doc. 12809/12 TRANS 251 CODEC 1961 - COM (2012) 382 final]
- Opinion on the application of the Principles of Subsidiarity and Proportionality¹

Delegations will find annexed a copy of the above letter.

¹ Translation(s) of the opinion may be available at the Interparliamentary EU information exchange site IPEX at the following address: <http://www.ipex.eu/IPEXL-WEB/search.do>



TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

An COMHCHOISTE UM IOMPAR AGUS CUMARSÁID

An Cion Polaitiúil maidir

COM (2012) 380 Togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle maidir le tástálacha tréimhsiúla ródacmhainneachta le haghaidh mótarfheithicilí agus a gcuid leantóirí agus lena n-aisghairtear Treoir 2009/40/CE.

Agus

COM (2012) 382 Togra le haghaidh Rialacháin ó Pharlaimint na hEorpa agus ón gComhairle maidir le hiniúchadh teicniúil ar thaobh an bhóthair ar ródacmhainneacht feithicilí tráchtála atá i gcúrsaíocht san Aontas agus lena n-aisghairtear Treoir 2000/30/CE.

Bealtaine 2013

HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Political Contribution on

COM (2012) 380 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers and repealing Directive 2009/40/EC

And

COM (2012) 382 Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the technical roadside inspection of the roadworthiness of commercial vehicles circulating in the Union and repealing Directive 2000/30/EC

May 2013

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PART 1

REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE SCRUTINY OF EU PROPOSALS

1. Introduction

The Joint Committee on Transport and Communications is pleased to participate in the on-going dialogue between National Parliaments and the European Commission and is grateful for the opportunity it affords to contribute to policy development in the European Union. The Joint Committee intends to avail of the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty to the fullest extent and looks forward to the further enhancement of the political dialogue between the Commission and the Houses of the Oireachtas which is a key factor in the development of better EU policy and laws which properly reflect the concerns and needs of Irish citizens.

On 31 October 2012, the Joint Committee discussed the Commission's proposals and agreed that the proposals warranted further scrutiny. The Joint Committee wrote to various stakeholders seeking their views and observations. At a further meeting of 16 January, 2013 it was agreed to invite officials from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, The Road Safety Authority and the Health and Safety Authority to a meeting to assist the Committee with its examination of the proposals.

Officials from the Department, The Road Safety Authority and the Health and Safety Authority attended a meeting of the Joint Committee on 13 February 2013 and outlined the proposals. The officials outlined the main aims and objectives of the proposals and answered questions from the Members.

The Joint Committee wishes to thank the Department, The Road Safety Authority, The Health and Safety Authority and the various stakeholders for their assistance in relation to the Committee's work on these significant proposals.

2. Decision of the Committee

On 1 May 2013, the Joint Committee agreed that the enclosed political contribution be forwarded to the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr Leo Varadkar TD, Mr. José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, Mr. Martin Schulz MEP, President of the European Parliament and Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council.

The Joint Committee further agreed that, in the interests of inter-parliamentary cooperation on EU matters, to forward a copy of this report to the appropriate Committee in each EU Member State's National Parliament and to ensure that a copy is made available to Ireland's MEPs.



Tom Hayes T.D,
Chairman,
Joint Committee on Transport and Communications

PART 2

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTION ON COM(2012)380 AND COM(2012)382

The following are the observations and recommendations of the Joint Committee, based on its scrutiny of the European Commission proposals COM (2012) 380 and COM (2012) 382. The Joint Committee:-

- 1) Broadly welcomes the aim of the proposals to enhance road safety and reduce emissions.
- 2) Expresses reservations in relation to the proposed introduction of annual road worthiness testing of cars after six years on the basis that Ireland is proactive in this area and introduced in 2011 annual testing of cars after ten years.
- 3) Recommends that the frequency of testing of cars annually after ten years in Ireland is appropriate at this time, based on strong road safety evidence.
- 4) Is of the opinion that increasing the frequency of testing to annually after six years would place an additional financial burden on vehicle owners without a significant safety dividend.
- 5) Supports the view of the Road Safety Authority (Ireland), that the cost of increasing the frequency of testing would be approximately €19million annually on users and would increase the volume of testing by 27%. It would also require the provision of additional test centres and expansion of existing centres and therefore would like to see a strong road safety case for increased frequency of testing of cars.
- 6) Is of the view that the merits of testing motorbikes needs to be further explored and proven before introducing roadworthiness testing of motorbikes in Ireland.
- 7) Notes that The Health and Safety Authority (Ireland) have stated that there is no compelling evidence to indicate that compulsory testing of agricultural vehicles would have a significant impact on fatalities.
- 8) Also notes the views of other relevant Stakeholders who have stated that the introduction of testing on tractors represents a duplication of existing standards which are already outlined under The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.
- 9) Supports the view of the relevant agricultural stakeholder *'that the introduction of roadworthiness tests for tractors could reduce the competitiveness and growth of the sector by introducing unnecessary and additional costs'*.
- 10) Recommends that more evidence is needed to better understand extending the roadworthiness testing to agricultural vehicles.

11) Is of the opinion that agricultural vehicles used solely for agricultural and horticultural purposes should be exempt from the proposals.

The Joint Committee looks forward to receiving the Commission's response to its observations and it hopes that the Committee's recommendations can be taken into account.

Joint Committee on Transport and Communications

1st May, 2013