



(EU) EP/INTERNAL MARKET: Andreas Schwab report improves proposal on safety and environmental friendliness of vehicles

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Brussels, 04/12/2008 (Agence Europe) - On Tuesday 2 December, in Brussels, the European Parliament internal market committee made improvements to the proposal defining harmonised rules on type approval requirements for the general safety of motor vehicles, with a view to ensuring the good functioning of the internal market while at the same time providing for a higher level of safety and environmental protection (see EUROPE 9667 on the proposal). The report by **Andreas Schwab** (EPP, Germany) on this dossier, which was adopted in committee by 32 votes to 10 and 7 abstentions, is on the agenda of the EP plenary session of February 2009.

After the vote, the rapporteur expressed optimism saying: "We shall improve road safety in Europe by being more ambitious than the Commission. New technology must be pushed forward to set lower noise limits for coming years and to thus improve public health by diminishing harmful road traffic noise".

More safety on roads. New safety technology, already available on top-of-the-range vehicles, contributes to reducing the risk of accidents. The regulation provides for the mandatory fitting of such devices on ordinary cars also. The systems concerned are electronic control and stability devices that help the driver to keep the vehicle under control. According to amendments from the parliamentary committee, advanced emergency braking systems and systems for the detection of deviation in moving trajectories should first of all be fitted on heavy goods vehicles, as the cost of such systems is too high for them to be obligatory on every kind of vehicle.

Less energy-consuming cars. The new regulation establishes a series of requirements relating to tyres that will have the result of reducing CO2 emissions and fuel consumption. It also makes it compulsory to install systems for surveillance of tyre pressure. MEPs trust this measure will be applied not only to private cars, as suggested by the European Commission, but also to heavy vehicles.

Transitional periods. Once adopted by the Parliament and Council and published, the new regulation should apply from 1 November 2011, the parliamentary committee states. A number of transitional periods are foreseen, however, sometimes extending until 2018, in order to facilitate the car industry's adjustment to these new measures. "My main concern is to ensure that this European regulation does not inflict additional costs upon consumers and manufacturers. We want to provide guarantees so that drivers spend less money because they use less petrol in a healthier environment with reduced CO2 emissions", the rapporteur said. (L.C./transl.jl)

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