

EU ISSUES UPDATE

MARCH 2021



OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOGUE

European Parliament Committee to discuss the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy

In April the European Parliament Transport Committee will discuss the European Commission's Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy (see December 2020 EU Issues Update). The Committee has appointed Ismail Ertug, a German from the Socialist Group, as the Rapporteur. The Shadow Rapporteurs are: Barbara Thaler for the Christian Democrats (Austrian); Soren Gade, for RENEW Europe (Danish); Roman Haider for the ID Group (right/far right) (Austrian); Ciaran Cuffe for the Greens (Irish); Roberts Zile for the ECR (Right/Eurosceptics) (Latvia) and Joao Ferreira for the Left (Portugal).

FIVA has drafted its position on the Strategy and is sharing it with the Rapporteurs. The paper explains:

- FIVA's definition of a historic vehicle which makes clear the distinction between a historic vehicle which is a part of our motoring heritage and a vehicle which is old and only owned because it provides a cheap form of daily transport.
- that motoring heritage has been key in defining changes to the living, working and leisure opportunities which have defined recent history and that each historic vehicle has survived because an individual has chosen to preserve a part of this heritage; and that each owner presents a free museum of motoring heritage to the general public every time they drive their vehicles on public roads
- That the European Commission's Strategy document includes expected policy and regulatory actions on vehicle-use pricing, access restrictions and technological development and that a consequence of the changes foreseen in the Strategy is that historic vehicles will become increasingly distinct from modern traffic; but that a potential consequence of the foreseen changes is also a threat to the right and/or the ability to use historic vehicles on public roads because road pricing can deter use, because LEZs can prevent use and because

Intelligent Transport Systems may not be compatible with historic vehicles. However, the paper also notes that there are solutions and:

- welcomes the 2018 EP Report on the Road Charging Directive “allowing historic vehicles to be treated differently to regular traffic for any road charging systems based on the “polluter pays”
- welcomes the fact that historic vehicles are exempt from many LEZs and that the 2017 study on Urban Vehicle Access Regulations recommends that historic vehicles be exempted from LEZs because of their minimal use in the regulated areas combined with their contribution to the preservation of motoring heritage.
- notes that ITS concerns are potentially resolvable with the use of accessory ITS devices.

FIVA is sharing its views with the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs with the objective that the Committee report states the need to preserve motoring heritage and so calls for legislation as a consequence of the Strategy to take into consideration any unintentional but potentially negative and/or disproportionate effects on the use - and thus also the preservation - of historic vehicles.

- 00 -

The FIVA Legislation Commission members are: Lars Genild (Chairman), Giuseppe Dell'Aversano, Wolfgang Eckel, Carla Fiocchi, Laurent Heriou, Johann König, Stanislav Minářík, Bob Owen, Kurt Sjoberg, Harit Trivedi and Andrew Turner of EPPA works with the Committee.