EU monthly Update

September 2023



Opportunities for engagement

EU Driving Licence Directive – European Parliament Transport Committee discusses the file

In September, the Parliament's TRAN Committee discussed the proposed updated Driving Licence Directive. MEP Rapporteur Karima Delli (Greens/EFA, France), who submitted her <u>draft report</u> in July, is proposing major changes to the Commission's proposal. Delli has proposed introducing night driving bans for young drivers, as well as a new driving licence category "B+" for cars weighing above 1.8 tonnes, to which novice drivers would have no access. Meanwhile, driving licences in the standard category B would be restricted to vehicles below that weight. MEP Delli has proposed removing the option to choose self-assessments instead of a check by a doctor and further limiting the validity to two years for drivers older than 80. This has faced criticism from some MEPs and member states, like the German transport ministry. Regarding digital licenses, there is support from MEPs, calling on the possibility to retain physical ones for inclusivity and accessibility. Next steps: the draft report and the amendments from MEPs will be debated on 25-26 October.

FIVA has submitted its position both in the EU public consultation and bilaterally to the involved MEPs, advocating to avoid discriminatory measures against experienced drivers and requesting an exemption from further restrictions for historic vehicles. This request is grounded on the fact that historic vehicles have a lower accident rate due to their marginal mileage; they are used in good visibility and traffic conditions, and receive special technical care and maintenance.

Developments

Ambient Air Quality Directive – European Parliament adopts position

On 13 September, the European Parliament adopted its <u>position</u> on the Ambient Air Quality Directive (AAQD). 363 MEPs voted in favour, 226 against and 46 abstained on the vote which sets a stricter 2035 limit and target values for several pollutants including particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and ozone. MEPs propose that in addition to air quality plans, which are required when EU countries exceed the limits, all Member States would also have to create air quality roadmaps. MEPs agreed on measures to limit transport emissions through urban planning and traffic management. These measures include the implementation of low-emission zones compliant with the latest Euro standards, the creation of zero-emission zones, and the establishment of low-traffic and car-free neighbourhoods. The European People Party criticised the position arguing that: "We are against banning cars from inner cities." Parliament will now enter into negotiations with Council and Commission.

FIVA advocates for harmonised EU guidelines on LEZs rules across Europe or alternatively at national level to avoid the fragmentation of mobility in the EU. FIVA advocates for the exemption of historic vehicles from LEZs rules due to the contribution of historic vehicles to cultural heritage and their marginal usage.

End of Life Vehicles (ELV) – Deadline to provide comments on Commission proposal postponed until late Nov On 29 November, the <u>feedback period</u> for stakeholders to submit comments on the European Commission proposal for an End of Life Vehicles Regulation will close. FIVA will propose improvements for the European Parliament and the EU Council for the integral protection of historic vehicles.

FIVA advocates to avoid historic vehicles from being considered waste by national authorities and to allow their legitimate export, on the basis of the owner's right to freely determine if a historic vehicle has reached the ELV phase. Further details on FIVA's position paper will be shared in the next monitor.

The FIVA Legislation Commission members are: Lars Genild (Chairman), Giuseppe Dell'Aversano, Loïc Duval, Wolfgang Eckel, Michail Filippidis, Carla Fiocchi, Peeter Henning, Johann König, Stanislav Minářík, Bob Owen, Bert Pronk and Kurt Sjoberg. Gabriel Lecumberri of EPPA works with the Commission.