



Newsletter

July – August 2019

I.	Council Presidency	1
II.	Motor Insurance Directive	1
III.	July Infringement Package	1
IV.	Join our Lunch Debate!	2
V.	Calendar	3



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Council Presidency

The first Romanian Presidency ended on 30 June. Despite previous criticism, Romania was issued with a largely excellent certificate. Among the important legislative acts concluded under the Romanian Presidency, the achievements in the area of banking union, improvement of labour and social rights, decarbonisation of transport and further strengthening of digital Europe were praised. In particular, the new CO2 emission standards negotiated and adopted under the Romanian Presidency are considered a success for the Romanian Presidency.

Finland has held the Presidency since 1 July. The Finnish programme identifies emission reduction and digitisation as priorities in the transport sector. In addition to the projects not yet completed (in particular the harmonisation of tolling systems), the Finnish Presidency intends to concentrate on the "development of high-quality digital services and the promotion of Mobility as a Service (MaaS), well-functioning transport networks and carbon-free transport." Digitisation and automation will also be promoted.

Further Links:

- [Website of the Finnish Presidency](#)
- [Program of the Presidency](#)

Motor Insurance Directive

After the European Commission had already proposed an amendment to the Motor Insurance Directive in May 2018, the negotiations will now gain momentum in the new legislative period. As no significant progress was made in the Council, the reform was postponed to the new legislative period. To move the reform forward, the Parliamentary Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) requested the resumption of work on 18 July 2019 and appointed a new rapporteur.

The Commission originally proposed a reform in five areas: compensation to victims of accidents

in which an insurer goes bankrupt; minimum amounts of cover; control of motor insurance by Member States; the way in which claims history statements are used by a new insurer; and the scope of the Directive.

In February 2019, the plenary of the European Parliament discussed amendments, but did not end the first reading and instructed the IMCO Committee to enter into inter-institutional negotiations with Member States (Council of the EU) and the Commission. The Parliament explicitly highlighted three reform proposals. On the one hand, the provisions on controls are to be tightened in order to tackle uninsured driving and to streamline the procedure for compensating injured parties in the event of the insurer's insolvency. On the other hand, small vehicles such as electric scooters or e-bikes should be excluded from the scope of the directive and the corresponding regulation should be left to the national states. It will also examine the suitability of the rules for new autonomous vehicles and high-speed lightweight vehicles.

Further Links:

- [Procedure File](#)
- [Commission Proposal](#)
- [Press Release Parliament 13.02.2019](#)
- [Text adopted by Parliament](#)

July Infringement Package

In its monthly package of infringement decisions, the European Commission takes legal action against Member States for non-compliance with their obligations under EU law. Two of these cases concern non-commercial road transport in July:

Medical fitness of drivers

Commission's reasoned opinion (step 2; see infobox) to Germany and the Czech Republic on EU legislation adopted in July 2016 on aspects of medical fitness of drivers in relation to cardiovascular diseases.

Vehicle testing measures

Reasoned opinion of the Commission (step 2) to Poland concerning the EU rules on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers adopted in April 2014 (Directive 2014/45/EC). These EU rules contain minimum requirements for test facilities, training of inspectors and supervisory authorities. Poland has also failed to adopt, publish or communicate to the Commission the national measures transposing the EU rules on technical roadside inspection of commercial vehicles (Directive 2014/47/EC). The Directive lays down common rules for technical roadside inspections.

Worth knowing: Infringement Procedure

The European Commission can identify possible infringements of EU law on the basis of its own investigations or following complaints from citizens, businesses or stakeholders.

If the Commission finds that a country has failed to implement a Directive or to remedy an alleged infringement, it can open formal infringement proceedings. The procedure consists of several steps: (1) Formal notice by the Commission requesting further information to the country concerned; (2) reasoned opinion by the Commission requesting the country to take action within a time limit to remedy the infringement; (3) referral to the European Court of Justice; (4) request to comply with the judgment; (5) second referral to the Court of Justice; (6) financial penalties.

More information on infringement proceedings can be found [here](#).

Further Links:

- [July infringement package](#)

Join our Lunch Debate! 21-11-2019 Brussels

The European Automobile Clubs asbl cordially invites you to its lunch debate “Car Data - Who does OWN, HAVE and USE it?” which will take place on Thursday, 21 November 2019 from 11:30 am to 2 pm at the premises of the Representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia to the European Union in Brussels. The event will be chaired by the former DVZ-EU correspondent and renowned transport expert Werner Balsen. Please save the date! The detailed programme will be available in due course.

The event is open to everyone, there is no participation fee, however registrations will be approved on a first-come first-serve basis.

Further Links:

- [Registration](#)

Calendar

Meeting Dates

Council

Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council 20/09/2019

Competitiveness Council 26/09/2019

Council of Justice and Home Affairs 07/10/2019

Council of Environment 04/10/2019

Plenary 16-19/09/2019 ([Agenda](#))

Committees

Environment (ENVI) 04-05/09/2019 ([Agenda](#), tba)

Internal Market / Consumer (IMCO) 02-03/09/2019 ([Agenda](#))

Justice & Home Affairs (LIBE) 04-05/09/2019 ([Agenda](#))

Transport (TRAN) 02-03/09/2019 ([Agenda](#), tba)

Events (Brussels)

26/09/2019 [Project EDWARD \(European Day Without A Road Death\)](#)

3-4/10/2019 [IETL's XXth European Traffic Law Days](#)

EAC-Events

20/11/2019 EAC-Fall Meeting 2019 in Brussels

21/11/2019 [EAC-Symposium 2019 in Brussels](#)