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European Commission
Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, Road Safety Unit

Ref Blind-spot consultation paper of 12 April 2006

Title Fitting blind-spot mirrors on existing trucks

In reply to a request for comments on fitting blind-spot mirrors on existing trucks increasing the driver's field of vision, Finland states that, until now, any new requirements concerning motor vehicle construction foreseen in directives that are being drawn up or reviewed have only been applied to new vehicles. This principle has enabled drivers and the vehicle industry to rely on the vehicle being in use throughout its working life and meeting the standards set for it when it was taken into use. Neither the drivers nor the industry have to have any fears about new requirements that would have been impossible to predict at the time the vehicle was taken into use, and that could cause a lot of changes and cost a lot of money.

Since the principle noted above is not included in the proposal and since it would not be technically possible to fit all trucks under the retrofitting obligation to meet the harmonised and explicit requirements, instead of compulsory retrofit it would be more reasonable to pursue the aim of improving the mirrors through recommendations and voluntary action.

Director of Traffic Safety Unit,

Matti Roine