



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Chambre des représentants for its Opinion on the "Roadworthiness package", including proposals for Regulations {COM(2012) 380 final} and {COM(2012)382 final}, as well as the proposal for a Directive {COM(2012) 381 final}, and apologises for the delay in replying.

As regards the proposal to include motorbikes within the scope of periodic roadworthiness testing the Commission would like to recall that the number of motorcyclists' fatalities has remained at a constant level over the last 20 years while all other vehicle categories have shown a remarkable reduction (37%). An empirical study by the umbrella organisation of European Motorcycle Manufacturers, MAIDS, concluded that 6% of accidents involving motorcycles is related to technical failure. The Commission would also like to draw the attention of the Chambre des représentants to a study conducted on behalf of the German Ministry for transport and the German Länder related to the revision of the German system for roadworthiness testing which concluded that 13 % of accidents involving motorcycles are related to technical failure. Furthermore, based on analysis of fatal accidents in the period 2005 – 2011 by the Swedish Transport Administration only 4 out of 10 mopeds involved in fatal accidents had no known technical defects. At least 23 % of mopeds involved in fatal accidents were tuned.

The Commission would also like to stress that the cross border use of trailers below 3.5 tons has increased over the past years, be it for east to west transit, with the predominance of commercial transport, or north to south transit, with the predominance of private use. The Commission would like to underline that the commercial use of such trailers in cross border operations in particular can be linked to circumventing the requirements of road haulage.

The Commission agrees with the Chambre des représentants that technical roadside inspections can be organised at national level. However, the Commission has recognised the positive effect of concerted control activities in the field of driving and resting time enforcement and therefore proposed to extend this successful approach on technical roadside inspections too.

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The Commission hopes that these explanations address the issues raised by the Chambre des représentants and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*