



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 7.3.2013
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Sénat for its reasoned Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on periodic roadworthiness testing {COM(2012)380 final}, and apologises for the delay in replying.

The Commission would like to underline that 6% of car accidents and 8% of motorcycle accidents can be linked to technical defects, as outlined by the Commission's Impact Assessment. This estimate was established on the basis of various empirical studies and reports and the Commission does not consider this number to be negligible. It has also been established that the probability of an accident linked to technical defects doubles for cars older than 8 years.

The Commission would also like to recall that the number of motorcyclist fatalities over the last 20 years has remained constantly high in the EU (more than 4 600 fatalities per year in the EU), while all other vehicle categories have seen a remarkable reduction. The Commission believes this gives firm ground for concerted action at European level in the various areas where improvement can be achieved in terms of road safety, including the technical condition of powered two-wheelers. An empirical study by the umbrella organisation of European Motorcycle Manufacturers, MAIDS, concluded that up to 6% of accidents involving motorcycles are related to technical failure.

Finally, the Commission is aware of the technical progress achieved in recent years in the area of vehicle engineering. However, various studies have demonstrated that the defect rates of vehicles do not improve over the years, only the type of technical defect changes. While problems related to corrosion become less pertinent, modern vehicles for instance face more problems with the electronic safety components when getting older.

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

Yours faithfully,

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Vice-President*

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