



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.4.2013  
C(2013) 2156 final

Mr Per WESTERBERG  
President of the Riksdag  
SE – 100 12 STOCKHOLM

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Riksdag for its Reasoned Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers and repealing Directive 2009/40/EC {COM(2012) 380 final} and apologises for the long delay in replying.

The Commission considers that in order to ensure greater legal certainty and clarity and in light of the nature of the obligations proposed, a regulation is the appropriate legal form especially considering that the proposed legislation addresses economic operators, such as vehicle manufacturers, vehicle testing centres and test equipment producers, directly.

The Commission would also like to underline that its proposal on roadworthiness tests allows for Member States to apply higher standards for roadworthiness testing for vehicles registered on their territory.

As regards the proposed inclusion of mopeds within the scope of periodic roadworthiness testing, the Commission would like to refer to the analysis of fatal accidents in the period 2005 – 2011 by the Swedish Transport Administration<sup>1</sup>. This analysis concluded that only 4 out of 10 mopeds involved in fatal accidents were without technical defects, and that at least 23% of all mopeds involved in fatal accidents had been tuned (illegally tampered with for increased speed, which would be discovered in roadworthiness tests). The results of the Commission's impact assessment<sup>2</sup> are in line with the conclusions of the Swedish Transport Administration and the Commission has therefore assessed mopeds to be a high-risk vehicle category for which mandatory vehicle inspections would indeed contribute to increased safety.

Finally, historic vehicles are the material heritage of the technical development in vehicle manufacturing. Such vehicles are not regularly used for mobility purposes. Since there is no

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<sup>1</sup> Increased safety for motorcycle and moped riders ; Swedish Transport Administration August 2012  
[http://publikationswebbutik.vv.se/upload/6859/2012\\_194\\_increased\\_safety\\_for\\_motorcycle\\_and\\_moped\\_riders.pdf](http://publikationswebbutik.vv.se/upload/6859/2012_194_increased_safety_for_motorcycle_and_moped_riders.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> SWD(2012) 206 final

*evidence of these historic vehicles having a negative impact on road safety, the Commission proposed to allow for a national exemption from periodic testing for historic vehicles aged 30 years or more. This means that a much higher number of such vehicles would benefit from the exemption compared to the current European legislation, covering only vehicles with a production date before 1 January 1960.*

*The Commission hopes that these explanations serve to clarify the points raised by the Riksdag and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*