

Citizens' summary

Taking your car abroad in Europe – fewer registration formalities

The EU is proposing simpler car registration rules – whether you spend part of the year in another country or drive a company car registered outside your home country.

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- As more and more Europeans travel, live and work abroad, the question *Where do I have to register my car?* has become more difficult to answer.
- National governments don't always make it easy, requiring re-registration for short or work-related stays, or lengthy procedures for people who move permanently.

WHAT EXACTLY WOULD CHANGE?

- **Formalities** for re-registering a car in another EU country would be **reduced to a minimum**. Many controls would be abolished altogether, with authorities getting any technical information they need about the car directly from their colleagues in the country where it's already registered.
- Registration authorities would cooperate more with each other, making it easier to track stolen cars. It would become **impossible to register a stolen car** in another EU country.
- **IMPORTANT** – this proposal would change nothing as regards:
 - vehicle and registration taxes
 - vehicles that are re-registered in the same EU country (for example, after being sold).

WHO WOULD BENEFIT AND HOW?

- People who buy or sell a second-hand car in another EU country would not have to undergo additional technical controls and administrative problems.
- People who spend **part of the year in a holiday residence** in another EU country would not have to re-register their car there.
- People who **move permanently** to another EU country would have 6 months to re-register their car there.
- People who **work in another EU country** and use a car registered by their employer there would no longer have to register it in their home country.
- **Car-rental companies** – during holiday periods, they would be able to transfer cars to another EU country without re-registration. This could lower the price of car rentals.

WHY DOES ACTION HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE EU?

- Because this issue involves cooperation between different countries, it can only be addressed at EU level.

WHEN IS THE PROPOSAL LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

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