

Specific and temporary measures in view of COVID-19 outbreak and concerning the validity of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and training in certain areas of transport legislation

2020/0068(COD) - 29/04/2020 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to extend the time limits laid down in Union law for the renewal or extension of certificates, licences or authorisations, and the postponement of certain periodic checks and training in certain areas of transport legislation in the context of COVID 19.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the COVID-19 crisis has created extraordinary circumstances that affect normal activity of the competent authorities in the Member States and the work of transport undertakings as regards the administrative formalities to be completed in different transport sectors that could not reasonably have been anticipated at the time of adoption of the relevant measures. Those extraordinary circumstances have a significant impact on various areas covered by Union transport law.

In particular, transport operators and other persons concerned may not be able to complete the necessary formalities or procedures to comply with certain provisions of Union law related to the renewal or extension of certificates, licences or authorisations or to complete other steps necessary to maintain their validity. This is the case, for instance, with driving licences, roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers, Community licences and driver attestations for the provisions of road haulage services, rail single safety certificates or authorisations, boatmasters' certificates or port security assessments etc. It is most likely that those certificates, licences, authorisations which, in accordance with Union law, would expire between 1 March 2020 and 31 August 2020 could not be renewed in due time.

Therefore, it is necessary to adopt temporary provisions extending the validity of those certificates, licences or authorisations that would expire between 1 March 2020 and 31 August 2020 and ensure that they remain valid during a reasonable period of time during and after the COVID-19 outbreak.

CONTENT: the proposed Regulation lays down specific and temporary measures applicable to the renewal and extension of the period of validity of certain certificates, licences and authorisations and the postponement of certain periodic checks and training in response to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 outbreak in the area of road, rail and inland waterways transport and maritime security.

This proposal concerns specific provisions that affect the application of several Directives and Regulations:

- [Directive 2003/59/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council which (lays down the initial qualification and periodic training requirements for professional drivers of trucks and buses with the objective to ensure safety on European roads).
- [Directive 2006/126/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (provides for the mutual recognition of the driving licences issued by Member States based on a Union model driving licence).
- [Directive 2014/45/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (defines the harmonised minimum requirements for periodic roadworthiness testing).
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1071/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (lays down common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator).
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 1072/2009](#) and [Regulation \(EC\) No 1073/2009](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (lay down common rules for access to the international road haulage market and the international market for coach and bus services, respectively).
- [Directive 2004/49/EC](#) and [Directive \(EU\) 2016/798](#) (regulate safety certification and authorisation in the Union).
- [Directive 2007/59/EC](#) of the European Parliament (lays down rules on the certification of train drivers operating locomotives and trains on the railway system in the Union).
- [Directive 2012/34/EU](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (establishes a single European railway area).
- [Directive 96/50/EC](#) (lays down conditions for obtaining boatmasters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterways in the Union).
- [Directive \(EU\) 2016/1629](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (lays down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels).
- [Regulation \(EC\) No 725/2004](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (lays down rules on ship and port facility security).
- [Directive 2005/65/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council (lays down measures to enhance port security in the face of threats of security incidents).

This Regulation should be adopted as a matter of urgency, so that situations of legal uncertainty affecting many authorities and operators in different sectors, in particular where the relevant time limits have already expired, remain as short as possible.