Driving licences, system of harmonized codes (amend. Directive 91/439/EEC)

1996/0040(SYN) - 08/04/1997

The rapporteur regretted that the Council had taken over only two out of the eight amendments adopted at first reading. He had therefore re-tabled the two main amendments which the Council had not accepted as they sought to extend the principle of mutual recognition of driving licences by Member States to include their suspension or withdrawal. Mutual recognition of this type of penalty was a key element in ensuring the free movement of persons within the European Union. Commissioner Bangemann said that, although a driving ban in the country of residence should be valid in other EU countries, the extension of this same penalty ordered in a country other than the country of residence could create legal and constitutional problems in the latter.