Agricultural and forestry tractors: approval of internal combustion engines, UN/ECE Regulation

2003/0155(AVC) - 10/07/2003 - Initial legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to present a proposal for a Council Decision on the position of the European Community on the draft Regulation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the uniform prescriptions applicable to the approval of internal combustion engines to be installed in agricultural and forestry tractors and in non-road mobile machinery, with regard to their net power, net torque and specific fuel consumption. CONTENT : the purpose of the proposal for a Decision is to enable the Commission representative to vote on behalf of the Community on the draft Regulation in question at a forthcoming meeting of the World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. By Council Decision 97/836/EC of 27 November 1997, the European Community became a Contracting Party to the 1958 Revised Agreement of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) on 24 March 1998. Article 4 of that Decision states that, where a draft Regulation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is submitted to a vote within the appropriate bodies of the UN/ECE, the draft concerned must be approved by the Council, after having received the assent of the European Parliament, before the Community can vote in favour of adopting such a draft Regulation. The provisional agenda for a forthcoming meeting of the World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe includes in particular a vote on a draft (new) Regulation concerning the approval of uniform provisions applicable to the approval of internal combustion engines to be installed in agricultural and forestry tractors and in non-road mobile machinery, with regard to their net power, net torque and specific fuel consumption The aim of the Regulation is in particular to abolish the technical barriers to trade in motor vehicles between the Contracting Parties, while ensuring a high level of safety and environmental protection. It should be highlighted that the position of the EC at the time of the vote will be taken on the basis of the documents available in the official languages of the UN/ECE (French and English). Indeed, the EC having become a Contracting Party to the 1958 Revised Agreement of the UN/ECE is required to observe the procedures envisaged in the aforementioned agreement.