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

1996/0040(SYN) - 18/06/1996

The Committee has adopted the report by Mr Gipo FARASSINO (It, ELDR) on the Commission proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 91/439 on driving licences. The Commission has proposed to adopt a basic harmonized set of codes for the additional information to be included on driving licences. Rapporteur FARASSINO welcomed this proposal, which harmonizes the system for codifying the information to be included on driving licences concerning the conditions under which the licence has been issued. He said that it will certainly facilitate the free movement of persons in the EU, particularly disabled drivers, and will contribute to road safety by making it easier throughout most of Europe to check driving licences where so required, whatever the Member State having issued them, the nationality of the official checking them or the administration managing them. But in amendments Mr FARASSINO has sought to meet the specific requirements and requests made by certain Member States. All these amendments were taken on board by the Committee. In amendment 5, the rapporteur calls on the Commission to submit proposals for the introduction of a European penalty points driving licence system. Amendment 6 stipulates that the mutual recognition of driving licences should also extend to cases where licences are suspended or withdrawn. Finally, in amendment 7, a new paragraph should be added to Article 8 of the Directive: In cases where driving licences are suspended or withdrawn, the decision of the competent authority of the Member state in which the offence has been committed shall have legal effects throughout the territory of the EU and shall be notified as soon as possible to the competent authority of the Member State which issued the driving licence in question