

Car industry: adaptive front-lighting systems (AFS) for motor vehicles, UN/ECE Regulation

2005/0180(AVC) - 28/09/2005 - Initial legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to enable the Commission to vote, on behalf of the EC, on the draft Regulation of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the approval of adaptive front-lighting systems (AFS) for motor vehicles

PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision.

CONTENT : by Council Decision 97/836/EC, the EC became a Contracting Party to the 1958 Revised Agreement of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE). That Decision took effect on 24 March 1998. Article 4 of that Decision stipulates, that where a draft Regulation of the UN/ECE is submitted to a vote within the appropriate UN/ECE bodies, the draft in question must be approved by the Council, after obtaining assent from the European Parliament, before the Community can declare itself in favour of adopting the draft.

The agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations of the UN/ECE will include, in particular, a vote on a (new) draft Regulation concerning the approval of adaptive front-lighting systems (AFS) for motor vehicles. The main purpose of the draft Regulation is to establish harmonised technical prescriptions, thereby avoiding the creation of technical barriers to trade in motor vehicles between the Contracting Parties, while ensuring a high level of safety and environmental protection.

Specifically, the draft regulation will enable vehicles to be fitted with headlamps that can have their beam pattern adapted to better suit the type of road that the vehicle is being driven on and the road conditions.

The EC's position at the time of the vote will be based on documents available in the official languages of the UN/ECE (French and English). As the EC has become party to the 1958 UN/ECE agreement, it is required to observe the procedures provided for in that agreement.

The purpose of the proposal is to enable the Commission representative to vote on the draft Regulation on behalf of the Community at a forthcoming meeting of the UN/ECE World Forum for Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations. The draft decision provides that the UN/ECE Regulation concerning the approval of adaptive front-lighting systems (AFS) for motor vehicles, shall be incorporated into the Community type-approval system for motor vehicles.