Driving licences: issue, validity, renewal (repeal. Directive 91/439/EEC). Recast

2003/0252(COD) - 21/09/2006 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Council adopted its common position by qualified majority on 18 September 2006. This text not only represents the Council’s position but also reflects the compromise negotiated between the three institutions following negotiations on the matter in June 2005.

Changes made to the initial proposal concern:

- The exchange of existing driving licences within 20 years of the date of entry into force of the Directive.

- Progressive access to motorcycles.

- Establishing the principle of “one driver one licence”.

- Allowing for a one day training programme or practical test for all combinations between 3500 kg and 4 250 kg and where the trailer exceed 750 kg.

The Commission is of the view that the Council’s common position alters neither the main aim, nor the spirit, of the proposal and is therefore able to support it, It also welcomes the fact that the common position reflects the agreement found during the inter-institutional negotiations, which paves the way for the adoption of this proposal at second reading.