Basic information

1996/0040(SYN) SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)	Procedure completed
Driving licences, system of harmonized codes (amend. Directive 91/439 /EEC) **Subject** 3.20.06 Transport regulations, road safety, roadworthiness tests, driving licence	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
TRAN Transport and Tourism	FARASSINO Gipo (ELDR)	05/09/1996

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
TRAN Transport and Tourism	FARASSINO Gipo (ELDR)	26/03/1996

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
JURI Legal Affairs, Citizens' Rights	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2011	1997-06-02
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	1937	1996-06-18
Fisheries	1983	1996-12-20

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
20/02/1996	Legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0055	Summary
28/03/1996	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
18/06/1996	Debate in Council		
18/06/1996	Vote in committee		Summary

18/06/1996	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A4-0206/1996	
04/09/1996	Debate in Parliament		Summary
06/11/1996	Modified legislative proposal published	COM(1996)0556 	Summary
20/12/1996	Council position published	11847/1/1996	Summary
30/01/1997	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
18/03/1997	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
18/03/1997	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A4-0087/1997	
08/04/1997	Debate in Parliament		Summary
02/06/1997	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
02/06/1997	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/06/1997	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	1996/0040(SYN)
Procedure type	SYN - Cooperation procedure (historic)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legal basis	EC Treaty (before Amsterdam) E 075
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	TRAN/4/08540

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A4-0206/1996 OJ C 211 22.07.1996, p. 0002	18/06/1996	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T4-0436/1996 OJ C 277 23.09.1996, p. 0011-0015	05/09/1996	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A4-0087/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0007	18/03/1997	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T4-0144/1997 OJ C 132 28.04.1997, p. 0067-0082	09/04/1997	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	11847/1/1996 OJ C 069 05.03.1997, p. 0007	20/12/1996	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(1996)0055 OJ C 110 16.04.1996, p. 0007	20/02/1996	Summary
Modified legislative proposal	COM(1996)0556 OJ C 031 31.01.1997, p. 0003	06/11/1996	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(1997)0175	28/01/1997	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0531/1996 OJ C 204 15.07.1996, p. 0020	24/04/1996	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Directive 1997/0026
OJ L 150 07.06.1997, p. 0041 Summary

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

1996/0040(SYN) - 20/02/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: the proposal for a directive is aimed at defining a harmonized set of codes for the information to be entered in national driving licences based on the Community model. The aim is to make it easier to understand and thus reciprocally to recognize licences during intra-Community travel. SUBSTANCE: the Commission proposal: - amends Annexes I and I bis to Directive 91/439/EEC (which defines the Community models for driving licences) by introducing harmonized codes; - proposes that a committee be set up for the adaptation to technical and scientific progress of Annexes I, II and III of Directive 91/439/EEC; - aligns the definition of the term 'motorcycle' with that of Directive 92/61/EEC on the type approval of two and three-wheel motor vehicles; - provides that the harmonized set of codes may be introduced with effect from 1 July 1996, the date of entry into force of Directive 91/439/EEC.

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

1996/0040(SYN) - 09/04/1997 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament approved the common position amending Directive 91/439/EEC on driving licences. The amendments contained in the draft recommendation for second reading by Mr Gipo FARASSINO (NI, I) did not received the qualified majority necessary for amending the Council text. The amendments concerned inter alia mutual recognition by Member States of decisions on the suspension and withdrawal of driving licences.

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

1996/0040(SYN) - 28/01/1997 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission approved the common position, which retained the key elements of its proposal.

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

1996/0040(SYN) - 02/06/1997 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: The aim is to define a system of harmonized codes for the particulars to be included in the Community model driving licence issued by the Member States, with a view to facilitating the comprehension and, therefore, the mutual recognition of the licences in circulation within the Community. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Council Directive 97/26/EC amending Directive 91/439/EEC on driving licences SUBSTANCE: The directive amends Annexes I and Ia of Directive 91/439/EEC (which defines the Community model driving licence), introducing harmonized codes. It provides for the creation of a 'committee on driving licences' for the adaptation to technical and scientific progress of Annexes I, II and III to Directive 91/439/EEC. It also aligns the definition of the term 'motorcycle' with that of Directive 92/61/EEC on the type approval of two- and three-wheel motor vehicles. The term 'motorcycle' will henceforth be used to refer to all two-wheel vehicles with or without sidecar, fitted with an engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50 cm3 if of the internal combustion type and/or having a maximum design speed of more than 45 km/h. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 08/06/1997 DEADLINE FOR TRANSPOSITION: 01/01/1998

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

1996/0040(SYN) - 05/09/1996 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Mr Giuseppe FARASSINO (ELDR, I) on the amendment of Directive 91/439/EEC (in force since 1 July 1996) on a European driving licence. Its prime request was extension of the principle of mutual recognition of driving licences by Member States to the suspension and withdrawal of licences. This would mean that suspension or withdrawal of a driving licence in the Member State where the offence is committed would have legal effect throughout the Community and would be notified to the competent authority of the Member State that delivered the driving licence in question. Parliament also asked: - for a universal 00 code for specific information to be entered on the driving licence and limit dates for definition of subdivision of the codes; - the Commission to present a proposal for the introduction of a European penalty points driving licence system; - that the driving licence should be issued or renewed in the case of applicants or drivers with diabetes where there are no existing complications.

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

1996/0040(SYN) - 06/11/1996 - Modified legislative proposal

The Commission's modified proposal amending the 1991 directive on driving licences has incorporated in total or in part 2 of the 18 European Parliament amendments. They seek to: - add to the text a reference to the sub-codes; - supplement the harmonized codes 02 (communication aid) and 03 (for the limbs), to make these references more specific, and for the codes 70 and 71 to add a reference to the list of ECE/UN symbols for third countries, the symbols of Member States having already been specified in annexes 1 and 1a of directive 91/439/EEC; - add a code 79 to cover cases of equivalence between categories of licence issued before the date of implementation of directive 91/439/EEC (1 July 1979) and the categories defined in Article 3 of the directive. The use of code 79 would be limited to the possible maintenance of acquired rights by holders of a licence obtained before 1 July 1996. However, the Commission has not accepted the amendments concerning in particular: the addition of a recital concerning the code of conduct concluded between Parliament and the Council; the setting up of a European penalty points driving licence system; the mutual recognition of decisions to suspend or withdraw driving licences; the inclusion of medical standards for driving; the introduction of a universal code 00, without a definition; the composition and working method of the management committee.

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

1996/0040(SYN) - 24/04/1996 - Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report

The Committee unreservedly endorses the Commission's Proposal which represents a further useful step towards increased road safety, facilitating the mutual recognition of driving licences and consequently the free movement of persons in the EU.

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

1996/0040(SYN) - 20/12/1996 - Council position

The common position of the Council concerning the modification of the 1991 directive on driving licences takes into account the two amendments adopted by the European Parliament at first reading and incorporated by the Commission in its amended proposal. It should be noted that by comparison with the Commission proposal, the common position: - alters the type of committee appointed to assist the Commission in adapting the annexes of Directive 91/439/EEC (type IIIa, while the Commission had provided for a type IIb committee); - confirms the mandate of the new committee on driving licences with regard to annexes II and III of Directive 91/439/EEC; nevertheless limits the competence of this committee in respect of annexes I and Ia, to the definition of codes and sub-codes as well as the facultative or obligatory character of using certain harmonized sub-codes; - sets, as in the case for motorcycles, the maximum design speed of three-wheeled motor vehicles and quadricycles at 45 km/h instead of 50 km /h, in line with the dispositions of Directive 92/61/EEC.