Basic information

2000/0315(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	Procedure completed
Road safety: compulsory use of belts for children under 12 years of age (amend. Directive 91/671/EEC) **Subject** 3.20.06 Transport regulations, road safety, roadworthiness tests, driving licence	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	HEDKVIST PETERSEN Ewa (PSE)	24/01/2001

Former committee responsible	Former rapporteur	Appointed
RETT Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism	HEDKVIST PETERSEN Ewa (PSE)	24/01/2001

Former committee for opinion	Former rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health, Consumer Policy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2462	2002-11-14
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy	2438	2002-06-17

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Energy and Transport	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2000)0815	Summary

07/12/2000	Legislative proposal published		
15/12/2000	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
25/04/2001	Vote in committee, 1st reading		Summary
25/04/2001	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A5-0141/2001	
30/05/2001	Debate in Parliament		
31/05/2001	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T5-0303/2001	Summary
14/11/2002	Council position published	10927/1/2002	Summary
20/11/2002	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading		
18/02/2003	Vote in committee, 2nd reading		Summary
18/02/2003	Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading	A5-0034/2003	
11/03/2003	Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading	T5-0068/2003	Summary
05/04/2003	Final act signed		
08/04/2003	End of procedure in Parliament		
09/05/2003	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2000/0315(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Directive
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 071-p1
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	RETT/5/14780

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A5-0141/2001	25/04/2001	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T5-0303/2001 OJ C 047 21.02.2002, p. 0019-0156 E	31/05/2001	Summary
Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading		A5-0034/2003	18/02/2003	
Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading		T5-0068/2003 OJ C 061 10.03.2004, p. 0022-0074 E	11/03/2003	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Council position	10927/1/2002 OJ C 299 03.12.2002, p. 0038 E	14/11/2002	Summary
Council statement on its position	13925/2002	14/11/2002	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2000)0815 OJ C 096 27.03.2001, p. 0330 E	07/12/2000	Summary
Commission communication on Council's position	SEC(2002)1205	15/11/2002	Summary

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES0923/2001 OJ C 260 17.09.2001, p. 0030	11/07/2001	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Directive 2003/0020
OJ L 115 09.05.2003, p. 0063-0067 Summary

Road safety: compulsory use of belts for children under 12 years of age (amend. Directive 91/671/EEC)

2000/0315(COD) - 15/11/2002 - Commission communication on Council's position

The Commission notes that the Common Position adopted by the Council reflects to a large degree the original proposal made by the Commission and the opinion of the European Parliament in its first reading. The Common Position reflects a balanced compromise. The Council has adopted all of the amendments proposed by the European Parliament which are acceptable to the Commission except for one amendment for a recital that tasked the Commission to conduct an information campaign in parallel with legislation. Although the Council did not accept such a recital, the Commission is actively pursuing campaigns on seat belt use by both passenger car and commercial vehicle occupants. Overall, the Commission supports the common position, as an important step for road safety in the EU and delivers a favourable opinion on it as a whole. It shall however only authorise exemptions under Article 6bis (school buses) and 6ter (large family) after much circumspection.

Road safety: compulsory use of belts for children under 12 years of age (amend. Directive 91/671/EEC)

2000/0315(COD) - 08/04/2003 - Final act

OBJECTIVE: To improve road safety, in particular for children. COMMUNITY MEASURE: Directive 2003/20/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/671/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3.5 tonnes. CONTENT: The directive defines the EU's regulatory framework relating to the use and conditions for use of safety belts and child restraints and relating to the relevant technical rules. Specifically, the draft directive extends the scope of Directive 91/671/EEC and requires all vehicle occupants to use the safety belts provided (M1, M2, M3, N1, N2 and N3 vehicles, defined in Annex II to Directive 70/156/EEC) and requires children travelling in private cars or vans (M1 and N1 vehicles) to use an appropriate restraint. Under this legislation, the Member States will be able, in order to be able to address very specific situations, to authorise national exemptions which go further than the exemptions laid down at Community level. They will be either permanent or temporary, depending on the case. In particular, there is a temporary exemption of no more than five years for school buses and temporary exemption of no more than six years for situations where the number of people seated in the rear seats in private vehicles is greater than the number of available safety belts or restraint systems (the 'large families' exemption). Member States will also be required to take the necessary steps in order to avoid abuses of the national exemptions. With regard to car safety for children under three years of age, it will be for the Member States to choose the arrangements that apply pending the introduction of appropriate Community arrangements. ENTRY INTO FORCE: 09/05/2003. IMPLEMENTATION: 09/05/2006.

Road safety: compulsory use of belts for children under 12 years of age (amend. Directive 91/671/EEC)

2000/0315(COD) - 31/05/2001 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The House approved the report by Mrs Ewa HEDKVIST PETERSEN (PES, S) concerning improving road safety by obliging all passengers in cars to wear seatbelts or in the case of children some kind of car restraint system with several amendments. (Please refer to the previous document).

Road safety: compulsory use of belts for children under 12 years of age (amend. Directive 91/671/EEC)

2000/0315(COD) - 11/03/2003 - Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the recommendation of Ewa HEDKVIST PETERSEN (PES, Sweden) and approved the common position.

Road safety: compulsory use of belts for children under 12 years of age (amend. Directive 91/671/EEC)

2000/0315(COD) - 07/12/2000 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : to improve road safety, in particular for children. CONTENT : this proposal proposes to amend Directive 91/671/EEC by: - defining the various types of safety belt and child restraint systems which should be approved to at least the technical standard of UN/ECE Regulation 44.03 or its equivalent; - requiring children of less than 12 years of age to be restrained by an appropriate child and restraint systems; - requiring drivers and passengers of all motor vehicles equipped with safety belts to wear them and places the responsibilities on the driver for informing passengers of the need to wear their seat belts; - requiring that rearward facing child restraints should not be used in the vehicles front passenger seat unless the passenger seat airbas is de-activated; - deletes Article 4 of Directive 91/671/EEC, which led to the disparity by Member States in the application of the Directive.

Road safety: compulsory use of belts for children under 12 years of age (amend. Directive 91/671/EEC)

2000/0315(COD) - 14/11/2002 - Council position

The Council fully supports the general aim of the Commission's proposal, i.e. a more stringent use of safety belts and child-restraint systems in all types of vehicles. Hence, it aims to ensure a maximum degree of protection for all occupants in all categories of vehicles concerned by making the use of safety belts or child-restraint systems compulsory; without prejudice to transitional arrangements (continuation of national standards up to 5 years as from the entry into force of the Directive), the child-restraint systems shall be approved to the standards of UN-ECE Regulation 44/03 or Directive 77 /541/EEC. Nevertheless, a certain degree of flexibility in the conditions for the use of the restraint systems - in the form of exemptions from the overall obligation to use these devices - forms part of the compromise reached by the Council in its common position. The draft amended Directive 91/671 /EEC will comprise the following exemptions: - a first category of exemptions are granted at Community-wide level; these (already existing) exemptions concern serious medical reasons; - a second category of exemptions may be granted, with the Commission's agreement, by Member States, for transport in their territory, in order to address some specific situations. The three already existing exemptions are confirmed whilst three new ones are being added: the latter flow from the extended obligation on the use of safety belts and child-restraint systems; - a third category of temporary exemptions may be granted, with the Commission's agreement, by Member States, for transport in their territory, in order to address in particular local transport operations; these exemptions can not last longer than five years from the date of entry into force of the Directive; - finally, a fourth category of

temporary exemptions, limited to a maximum of 6 years from the date of entry into force of the Directive, concerns situations where the number of persons sitting in seats other than front seats in private vehicles is greater than the number of seat belts or restraint systems fitted (the so called "large families" exemption). As regards the amendments of the European Parliament, the Council accepted amendment 5 on (already existing or new) exemptions, which can be granted by Member States on a permanent basis. The Council provides that regarding the use of adult safety belts by children, propose that - for M1 and N1 vehicles - any child over 150 cm in height may wear an adult safety belt; however, these amendments do not address children over 12 whose height is less than 150 cm. Therefore, the Council's common position provides that - for M1, N1, N2 and N3 vehicles - any child over 150 cm in height may wear a safety belt for adults. Also, Member States may allow, in their territory, the same for children from 135 cm upwards. Consequently, any child of less than 150 cm or 135 cm in height - as the case may be - must be restrained by a child-restraint system, except children under three years of age in buses (M2 and M3 vehicles). In addition, the Council's common position includes in its article 7a (2) a request to the Commission to carry out studies on the most suitable safety systems for improving the protection of all passengers, on the application of this Directive and in particular on the exemptions granted by Member States; theCommission should report on its findings, and join appropriate proposals, if needed.