

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

---

28 May 1982

DOCUMENT 1-276/82

Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Economic and  
Monetary Affairs

on the proposal from the Commission of the European  
Communities to the Council (Doc. 1-922/81 - COM(81)  
733 final)

for a directive amending 17 directives on the approxima-  
tion of the laws of the Member States relating to wheeled  
agricultural or forestry tractors

Rapporteur: Mr K. NYBORG

PE 77.663/fin.



By letter of 31 December 1981 the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending 17 directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (Doc. 1-922/81).

The President of the European Parliament referred this proposal to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs which appointed Mr K. Nyborg rapporteur at its meeting of 24 February 1982.

The committee considered the Commission's proposal and the motion for a resolution at its meeting of 18 May 1982 and unanimously adopted them; the committee also decided to propose that Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure (procedure without debate) be applied.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Moreau, chairman; Mr de Ferranti, vice-chairman; Mr Nyborg, rapporteur; Mr Beazley, Mr Bonaccini, Mrs Caretoni Romagnoli (deputizing for Mr Leonardi), Mr Carossino (deputizing for Mr Fernandez), Mrs Desouches, Mr Didò (deputizing for Mr Schwarzenberg), Miss Forster, Mr Giavazzi, Mr de Goede, Mr Hopper, Mrs Kalliopi Nikolaou (deputizing for Mr Rogers), Mr Purvis, Mr Rogalla (deputizing for Mr Mihr) and Mr Ruffolo.

C O N T E N T S

Page

A. MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION .....	5
B. EXPLANATORY STATEMENT .....	7

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

embodying the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for a directive amending 17 directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(81) 733 final)<sup>1</sup>,
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty (Doc. 1-922/81),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Doc. 1-276/82),
- having regard to the result of the voting on the Commission's proposal,

1. Recommends an increase in the proposed maximum design speed for agricultural tractors to make a larger number of tractors eligible for the EEC type-approval procedure; at the same time calls attention to the fact that there is disagreement among the Member States as to whether this maximum speed should be increased to 30 or 32-33 km/h;
2. Does not believe that an increase to 33 km/h would imply such great traffic risks as to warrant opposition to the producers' desire to have the maximum speed raised above that proposed by the Commission; in view of this calls on the Commission to consider whether it is necessary to tighten up the provisions on brakes<sup>2</sup>;

<sup>1</sup> See OJ No. C 346, 13 December 1981, p. 7

<sup>2</sup> See Council Directive 76/432/EEC, particularly Annex II, point 2.1.1.1

3. Therefore calls on the Commission to amend its proposal accordingly when it is discussed by the Council;
4. Instructs its President to forward the Commission's proposal as amended by Parliament, together with the motion for a resolution, as Parliament's opinion, to the Commission and the Council.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. As the Commission's explanatory memorandum is both concise and clear, the committee will confine itself to commenting on the political/economic aspect.
2. The Commission's proposal to increase the maximum speed from 25 km/h to 30 km/h for tractors within the EEC type-approval procedure represents a compromise adopted by a majority of the Member States' representatives in the Working Party on Agricultural Tractors and Machinery: in the manufacturers' organization CEMA (European Committee of Associations of Manufacturers of Agricultural Machinery) both the British and German authorities are reported to have proposed an increase in the maximum speed to 32-33 km/h.

In the committee's view the Commission has failed to put forward arguments proving that an increase to either 30 or 33 km/h would produce greater risks for traffic safety; the German authorities however spoke out in favour of the formulation of more stringent requirements regarding brakes to accompany the (recommended) increase in the maximum speed.

3. The main reason for the producers' desire for a larger increase than that proposed by the Commission is that it would then be possible to produce the same gearbox for Community vehicles as for those to be exported to third countries, and thus increase the international competitiveness of European firms. The saving effected in this way might have to be weighed against the cost of more stringent brake requirements.

4. The Commission has failed to provide the committee with arguments regarding safety and business economy cogent enough to persuade it that the producers' desire to have the limit raised to 33 km/h should not be granted.

During discussions in the working party on technical barriers to trade, Commission officials adopted a sympathetic attitude to the desire to raise the maximum speed to 33 km/h immediately, and referred to Article 1(3) of the proposal, under which 'a result 10% above the 30 km/h value' is acceptable.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs does not think it would be wise for producers to market their products in accordance with this provision since, if they deliberately produced vehicles with a maximum design speed of 33 km/h, the least deviation above that figure would make the product unacceptable for EEC type-approval.

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs had intended to table a draft amendment to Article 1(2) to this effect, but has decided not to do so in view of the Commission's undertaking to press for the maximum speed to be raised to 33 km/h during discussions in the Council.