

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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DOCUMENT 424/78

Report

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

on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the
Council for

- I. a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to
the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors
– static tests – (Doc. 354/78)
- II. a directive on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to
towing hooks and reverse on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors
(Doc. 373/78)

Rapporteur: Mr K. NYBORG

By letters of 4 and 6 October 1978 the President of the Council of the European Communities requested the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty, to deliver an opinion on the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council for

- a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors - static tests -

and

- a directive on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to the towing hooks and reverse on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

The President of the European Parliament referred these proposals to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs as the committee responsible and to the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport for its opinion.

On 18 October 1978 the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs appointed Mr K. NYBORG rapporteur.

It considered these proposals at its meeting of 18 October 1978 and at the same meeting unanimously adopted the motion for a resolution.

Present: Mr Pisani, chairman; Mr Notenboom and Mr Leonard, vice-chairmen; Mr Nyborg, rapporteur: Lord Ardwick, Mr Halvgaard, Mr Lange, Mr Spinelli and Mr Starke.

The opinion of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport is attached.

C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
A MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION	5
B EXPLANATORY STATEMENT	6
Opinion of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport	7

A

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 proposals from the Commission of the European Parliament to the Council for

- a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors - static tests - ,
- a directive on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to the towing hooks and reverse on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the proposals from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (COM(78) 389 final and COM(78) 385 final),
- having been consulted by the Council pursuant to Article 100 of the EEC Treaty (Docs. 354/78 and 373/78),
- having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport (Doc. 424/78),
- having regard to its frequently reiterated attitude to the elimination of technical barriers to trade, the streamlined procedure to be followed and the harmonization method applied¹,

1. Approves the Commission's proposals under the circumstances;
2. Draws attention once again to the great disadvantages of the slow procedure which is still being followed for the elimination of technical barriers to trade;
3. Hopes that the introduction of the new procedure for which the Commission, at Parliament's instigation, is to submit a proposal at present in the final stages of preparation, will encourage the elimination of technical barriers to trade and the attainment of the free movement of goods within the common market at an early date.

¹ OJ No. C 5, 8.1.1975, p.41
OJ No. C 76, 7.4.1975, p.37
OJ No. C 118, 16.5.1977, p.33
OJ No. C 131 5.6.1978, pp. 84-85

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

These proposals belong to the series of measures based on Article 100 of the EEC Treaty which are designed to abolish technical barriers to trade by harmonizing divergent national legal and administrative provisions, thereby promoting the free movement of goods.

Both proposals concern wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors and form part of the Community's type-approval procedure contained in Council Directive 74/150/EEC of 4 March 1974. Both proposals provide for optional harmonization.

A. Roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (Doc. 354/78)

This proposal concerns static tests for the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors. Roll-over protection structures for tractors with a mass of 1.5 - 4.5 tonnes are already covered by the Council Directive of 28 June 1977 which lays down provisions for the dynamic testing of such vehicles. Since these dynamic tests are inappropriate for tractors with a mass of more than 4.5 tonnes, which are attracting greater interest thanks to recent advances in technology, the present proposal for a directive proposes that static tests should be introduced for tractors with a mass of more than 4.5 tonnes. These static tests are not suitable for tractors with a mass less than 1.5 tonnes, for which the Commission is working out a separate proposal. For tractors with a mass of 1.5 - 4.5 tonnes, for which dynamic tests have already been laid down in a Directive, the proposal for a directive gives manufacturers the option of applying the dynamic tests already laid down or the proposed static tests. There is little point in a complete changeover to static tests since the two kinds of test are of more or less equal merit and such a changeover would involve manufacturers in very costly changes to inspection equipment.

B. Towing hooks and reverse on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (Doc. 373/78)

A suitable device for the attachment of a towing bar or cable is necessary for the removal of tractors which have broken down. Where such a device is absent, the steering mechanism may be damaged by an improvised fitting and the tractor's safety impaired. This aspect must therefore be covered by a directive. In its proposal the Commission proposes technical requirements for the Community as a whole.

As regards the reverse, this device must be incorporated on all vehicles with a maximum authorized weight over 300 kg, in accordance with the Convention on road traffic.

OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL POLICY, REGIONAL
PLANNING AND TRANSPORT

Letter from the chairman of the committee to Mr PISANI, chairman
of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

26 October 1978

Dear Mr Chairman,

The Committee on Regional Policy, Regional Planning and Transport has been asked to give an opinion to your Committee concerning a Commission proposal for a Council directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (Doc. 354/78) and a Commission proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to the

- towing hooks
- reverse

on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (Doc. 373/78).

At its meeting of 26 October 1978 my committee instructed me to write to you expressing its opinion in the form of a letter stating that in its opinion this proposal was to be welcomed and required no further comment from the committee.

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(sgd.) Bruce of Donington

Present: Lord Bruce of Donington, chairman; Mr Nyborg and Mr McDonald, vice-chairmen; Mr Albers, Mr Brosnan, Mr Delmotte, Mr Fuchs, Mr Haase, Mr Ibrügger, Mrs Kellett-Bowman, Mr Osborn, Mr Schyns and Mr Seefeld.

