

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 14/2020

Launch of the public consultation on the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation

The European Commission finally launched the public consultation on the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 461/2010). The purpose of the consultation is to assess whether and to what extent the objectives of the Motor Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation (MVBBER) are fulfilled. The MVBBER mandates the Commission to draw up an evaluation report on its operation by 31 May 2021, in view of its expiry on 31 May 2023. The questionnaire is available via the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/2008-Evaluation-of-the-Motor-Vehicle-Block-Exemption-Regulation/public-consultation>

Safer and cleaner cars – online exchange of certificates of conformity

Under EU rules, motor vehicles and related equipment (e.g. trailers) must meet certain safety and environmental standards before they can receive a certificate of conformity. This initiative sets out the basic requirements for sending conformity certificates over the internet. It covers aspects such as format and structure of data, security measures, access criteria. This draft act is open for feedback until 29 October 2020: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12153-Safer-and-cleaner-cars-online-exchange-of-certificates-of-conformity>

Concerns raised over draft technical specifications for mandatory Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) systems

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) and a coalition of organisations have written to EU Member States raising concerns about draft technical specifications for Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA), a mandatory new safety technology for new vehicles due to be introduced from 2022. Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) is a key technology for helping drivers to avoid speeding. The proposed draft delegated act would allow vehicle manufacturers to fit a less effective system than the one envisaged in the legislation passed last year. This issue has been discussed during a meeting of experts that was held on 8 October. The European Commission was confident that all technical specifications could be launched in the designated time frame: <https://etsc.eu/concerns-raised-over-draft-technical-specifications-for-mandatory-intelligent-speed-assistance-isa-systems/>

Coronavirus: Commission Statement on consulting Member States on proposal to prolong and adjust State aid Temporary Framework

The Commission has sent to Member States for consultation a draft proposal:

- to prolong at current limits existing provisions of the Temporary Framework (including for liquidity support) for an additional six months until 30 June 2021. The objective is to

enable Member States to support businesses in the context of the coronavirus crisis, especially where the need or ability to use the Temporary Framework has not fully materialised so far, while protecting the level playing field;

- to extend the scope of the Temporary Framework, taking into account the continued economic uncertainty and the needs of businesses with significant turnover losses, by enabling Member States to contribute to the fixed costs of companies that are not covered by their revenues. Supporting these companies by contributing to part of their costs on a temporary basis aims at preventing the deterioration of their capital, maintaining their business activity and providing them with a strong platform to recover; and
- to adapt the conditions for recapitalisation measures under the Temporary Framework, in particular for the State's exit from enterprises where the State was an existing shareholder prior to the recapitalisation. The proposed changes would allow the State to exit from the equity of such enterprises through an independent valuation, whilst maintaining the safeguards to preserve effective competition in the Single Market.

Member States now have the possibility to comment on the Commission's draft proposal: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_20_1805

The Alliance of European Car Dealers and Repairers (AECDR) represents and promotes the interests of 57,500 franchised dealers and authorised repairers. In total these companies employ 1.175,000 people.