



Eurovignette Directive : CECRA rises against European Parliament's "demagogical" Draft.

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The representatives of the European Commercial and Industrial Vehicle Trade and Repair Sector support the IRU and road haulage professionals in strongly protesting against the choice made by the Committee on Transport of the European Parliament as regards the revision of the so-called "Eurovignette" Directive.

CECRA's Industrial Division's Chairman, Mr. Massimo Campilli, commented: "certain proposals of the Transport Committee of the Parliament to be discussed this week in Strasbourg are demagogical. They will be expensive for the European economy and will bring nothing in environmental terms."

Amongst the most bewildering measures, the creation of a system allowing member states many variations (including local and periodical) in the weighted average road tolls and their extension to vehicles from 3.5t instead of 12t as was the case in the previous directive and in the Commission's proposal.

To CECRA such measures only have anecdotal environmental value. They will create a system the operation of which will be difficult and they will have a negative impact on the already low margins of road hauliers.

Some Members of Parliament seem to be convinced that additional costs will contribute to transfer goods transport from the road to other means of transport. They seem to ignore the importance and flexibility of road haulage for the economy. The true losers of such cost increases will be European industry and, more especially, the consumers.

As regards the Commercial and Industrial Vehicle trade and repair sector, the customers of which are road hauliers, the Parliament's choices will impact negatively on the ability of transport companies to invest in new, safer and less polluting vehicles and their general servicing.

Moreover, the extension of the Directive to vehicles from 3.5t could have undesired consequences that would be contrary to its aim by promoting greater use of vehicles under 3.5t. This in addition would be favourable to some vehicle manufacturers and their networks.

"We fully support the road hauliers and their association, the IRU, in the steps they are taking and we call on the Members of the European Parliament to reconsider their draft. This is merely a question of common sense", Mr. Campilli concluded.

CECRA, established in 1983, is THE European Federation consisting of 26 national trade associations representing the interests of the Motor Retail and Repair Businesses and 13 European Dealer Councils on behalf of vehicle dealers for specific makes. In figures CECRA represents all 350,000 enterprises in the 25 member states, of which 118,000 are Authorized Dealers and Repairers and 232,000 Independent Repairers. They employ 2,450,000 people and have an annual turnover of 520 billion € of which 100 billion for parts.

For further information please contact CECRA's Public Affairs Manager, Jacopo Moccia.