COMMISSION DECISION

of 3 July 1997

concerning a request for exemption submitted by Belgium pursuant to Article 8 (2) (c) of Council Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers

(Only the French and Dutch texts are authentic)

(97/496/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 70/156/EEC of 6 February 1970 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers [1], as last amended by European Parliament and Council Directive 96/79/EC [2], and in particular Article 8 (2) (c) thereof,

Whereas the request submitted by Belgium on 9 December 1996, which reached the Commission on 10 December 1996, contains the information required by Article 8 (2) (c); whereas the request concerns the fitting of one type of vehicle with three types of third stop lamp falling within category ECE S3 by virtue of ECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Regulation No 7 carried out in accordance with ECE Regulation No 48;

Whereas the reasons given in the request, according to which the fitting of the stop lamps and the stop lamps themselves do not meet the requirements of Council Directive 76/758/EEC of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to end-outline marker lamps, front position (side) lamps, rear position (side) lamps and stop lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers [3], as last amended by Commission Directive 89/516/EEC [4], and of Council Directive 76/756/EEC of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on motor vehicles and their trailers [5], as last amended by Commission Directive 91/663/EEC [6], are well founded; whereas the descriptions of the tests, the results thereof and their compliance with ECE Regulations No 7 and No 48 ensure a satisfactory level of safety;

Whereas the Community Directives concerned will be amended in order to permit the production and fitting of such stop lamps;

Whereas the measure provided for by this Decision is in accordance with the opinion of the Committee on Adaptation to Technical Progress set up by Directive 70/156/EEC,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The request submitted by Belgium for an exemption concerning the production of three types of third stop lamp falling within category ECE S3 by virtue of ECE Regulation No 7 and the fitting thereof in accordance with ECE Regulation No 48 on the type of vehicle for which they are intended is hereby approved.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of Belgium.

Done at Brussels, 3 July 1997.

For the Commission

Martin BANGEMANN

Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ No L 42, 23. 2. 1970, p. 1.
[2] OJ No L 18, 21. 1. 1997, p. 7.
[3] OJ No L 262, 27. 9. 1976, p. 54.
[4] OJ No L 265, 12. 9. 1989, p. 1.
[5] OJ No L 262, 27. 9. 1976, p. 1.
[6] OJ No L 366, 31. 12. 1991, p. 17.