COMMISSION DECISION

of 8 October 1997

concerning a request for exemption submitted by the Netherlands 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 Dutch text is authentic)

(97/669/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 the Netherlands on 13 January 1997, which was received by the Commission on 20 January 1997, was accompanied by a report containing the information required by Article 8 (2) (c); whereas the request concerns one type of gas discharge lamp for one type of headlamp for one type of motor vehicle;

Whereas the information provided by the Netherlands shows that the technology and principle embodied in this new type of gas discharge lamp and headlamp do not meet the requirements of Community regulations; whereas, however, the descriptions of the tests, the results thereof and the action taken in order to ensure road safety are satisfactory and ensure a level of safety equivalent to that of the lamps and headlamps covered by the requirements of the Directives in force and, in particular, of Council Directive 76/761/EEC of 27 July 1976 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to motor-vehicle headlamps which function as main-beam and/or dipped-beam headlamps and to incandescent electric filament lamps for such headlamps [3], as last amended by Commission Directive 89/517/EEC [4];

Whereas this new type of gas discharge lamp and this new type of headlamp meet the requirements of UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) Regulations Nos 7, 8, 98 and 99; whereas it is therefore justified to allow the three items covered by the request for exemption, i.e. the type of gas discharge lamp, the type of headlamp fitted with this type of lamp and the type of motor vehicle, to benefit from the granting of EC type-approval on condition that the type of vehicle concerned is equipped with an automatic headlamp levelling system, a headlamp cleaning device and a system guaranteeing that dipped-beam headlamps are lit even if the main-beam headlamps are lit;

Whereas the Community directives concerned will be amended in order to enable gas discharge lamps embodying this new technology, headlamps fitted with such lamps and motor vehicles equipped with such headlamps to be placed on the market;

Whereas the measure provided for in 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 the Netherlands for an exemption concerning one type of gas discharge lamp for one type of headlamp for one type of motor vehicle is hereby approved on condition that the vehicle type concerned is equipped with an automatic headlamp levelling system, a headlamp cleaning device and a system guaranteeing that dipped-beam headlamps are lit even if the main-beam headlamps are lit.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Done at Brussels, 8 October 1997.

For the Commission

Martin BANGEMANN

Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ L 42, 23. 2. 1970, p. 1.
[2] OJ L 18, 21. 1. 1997, p. 7.
[3] OJ L 262, 27. 9. 1976, p. 96.
[4] OJ L 265, 12. 9. 1989, p. 15.