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I

(Information)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of 26 June 2000

on the improvement of road safety

(2000/C 218/01)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the general discussion on the communication submitted by the Commission on 20 March 2000 entitled 'Priorities in EU road safety: progress report and ranking of actions', welcomes the submission of the paper, which forms part of the second Community action programme entitled 'Promoting Road Safety in the EU' for the period 1997 to 2001.

(1) Points out that the adoption of measures to increase transport safety is an objective of the common transport policy, expressly embodied in the Treaty.

(2) Considers that improving road safety should be one of the main priorities of transport policy, given the unacceptable number of deaths and injuries as a result of road accidents in Europe leading to serious physical, mental and material harm, be it to the victims and their families or to society as a whole.

(3) Points out that improving road safety is the responsibility of everyone, that is to say the European Union, the national, regional and local authorities of the Member States, the motor vehicle industry, transport companies, associations and above all road users themselves.

(4) Notes that as regards road accidents there are still significant differences between Member States and that that is one reason for stepping up action, at Community level as well.

(5) Notes that, in attributing an economic cost to fatalities, and to the physical and material damage caused by road accidents, the second programme introduced an economic dimension in the approach to road safety.

(6) Acknowledges that the costs of preventing accidents are, in general, much less than the economic cost of accidents and of the damage caused by them.

(7) Notes that although there is a trend towards a reduction in the annual number of victims, a significant proportion of whom are children and young people, the situation continues to be socially unacceptable, obliging everyone involved to make an active contribution to reducing the number of victims.

(8) Emphasises the importance of continuing and developing the work undertaken in the framework of administrative agreements on the application and implementation of joint traffic controls.

(9) Endorses the European Parliament's view expressed in its resolution of 11 March 1998 on the second action programme⁽¹⁾ as to the need for action in accordance with the new strategy to speed up progress regarding road safety, by establishing, *inter alia*, a ranking system for measures which need to be taken in future at Community level.

(10) Considers that progress on the following measures is essential:

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 104, 6.4.1998, p. 139.

I. LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

1. Amendment of Directive 91/671/EEC⁽¹⁾ with the aim of extending compulsory use of seat belts to all vehicles already fitted with this device as standard, and making it compulsory to use type-approved child restraint systems.
2. Extension of the scope of Directive 92/6/EEC⁽²⁾ on speed limitation devices to goods or passenger vehicles weighing over 3,5 tonnes taking into account the next evaluation report by the Commission on the experience gained in implementing that Directive.
3. Directive on the type-approval of vehicles with a forgiving front design, in the event of a collision, for the most vulnerable road users, in particular children, pedestrians and cyclists.
4. Directive on the requirement that users of motorcycles and mopeds wear helmets.
5. Amendment of Directive 91/439/EEC⁽³⁾ on driving licences with the aim of harmonising the subcategories in accordance with the various types of vehicles as well as targeting better the application of the medical criteria for driving licences.
6. Amendment of Directive 71/127/EEC⁽⁴⁾ so as to increase the field of lateral and rear visibility, thus reducing 'blind spots'.
7. Measures relating to the problem of drunken driving: recommendation for driving under the influence of alcohol, encouraging Member States to consider, *inter alia*, the adoption of a maximum blood-alcohol level of

0,5 mg/ml for drivers, without prejudice to the establishment of lower general limits or lower limits for specific categories of drivers.

II. INVESTIGATIVE MEASURES

1. Pursuing and intensifying work under the European New Car Assessment Programme (EURO-NCAP) with a view to possibly including additional criteria concerning, in particular, active safety and the safety of pedestrians; assessing the results of the EURO-NCAP programme in terms of road safety.
2. Continuing to investigate road safety problems caused by the behaviour of drivers under the influence of drugs and certain medicinal products, by studying in particular the best control practices in the Member States and developing methods of detection by screening which will permit more effective control.
3. Continuing investigative work aimed at establishing rules for the application of telematic systems in vehicles, given the current importance of the development of such systems and the need to increase knowledge of their effects in terms of road safety.
4. Continuing to investigate the use of advanced assisted driving technology, relating both to vehicles and infrastructure, which has considerable potential for improving road safety.
5. Continuing to evaluate technology relating to speed limitation devices and to identify any technical, organisational, administrative and legal difficulties in introducing them; defining a coherent strategy to eliminate those obstacles and promote the marketing of such technology.
6. Continuing and developing work on the protection of car occupants in the event of rear impact (whiplash).
7. Investigating the scope for using devices which prevent the engine from starting if the maximum blood-alcohol level authorised at national level has been exceeded.

⁽¹⁾ Council Directive 91/671/EEC of 16 December 1991 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3,5 tonnes (OJ L 373, 31.12.1991, p. 26).

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 92/6/EEC of 10 February 1992 on the installation and use of speed limitation devices for certain categories of motor vehicles in the Community (OJ L 57, 2.3.1992, p. 27).

⁽³⁾ OJ L 237, 24.8.1991, p. 1.

⁽⁴⁾ Directive 71/127/EEC of 1 March 1971 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the rear-view mirrors of motor vehicles (OJ L 68, 22.3.1971, p. 1).

8. Continuing work on the installation in vehicles of devices reminding users to wear belts with a view to developing specifications.
9. Examining whether a requirement that cyclists wear helmets might not have negative repercussions for cycling and assessing the problems of applying such a measure in practice.
10. Continuing to look into the advantages and the consequences of permanent use of dipped headlights or special lights by vehicles for day-time driving.
11. Examining the possible secondary effects of air bags' being activated particularly in the event of a multiple impact.
12. Studying the affects and means of possible compulsory installation in light vehicles of adjustable devices of speed-limit infringements, which drivers could operate.
5. Setting up and administering an integrated information system collecting, comparing, interpreting and disseminating statistics on all aspects of road safety in the European Union.
6. Encouraging the exchange of information at European level on first aid for accident victims, since improving the effectiveness of that aid is one of the factors which has helped to reduce the number of road deaths.
7. Establishing guidelines for the dissemination of information on best practice for designing 'forgiving' infrastructure and defining policies for eliminating black spots, as well as for informing drivers of their existence.
8. Promoting exchange of information on the best strategies for awareness campaigns.

III. INFORMATION MEASURES

1. Promoting the dissemination of the results of the test campaigns conducted in the framework of the EURO-NCAP programme.
2. Facilitating and reinforcing the exchange of information on road safety, particularly by exploiting the Community CARE⁽¹⁾ database, since the availability of qualitative and quantitative information makes it possible to establish priorities and the measures to be taken to define road safety policies.
3. Promoting campaigns to raise awareness of the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding.
4. Promoting campaigns to raise awareness of the importance of the use of seat belts by vehicle users and of helmets in the case of those using two-wheeled vehicles.

⁽¹⁾ Council Decision 93/704/EC of 30 November 1993 on the creation of a Community database on road accidents (OJ L 329, 30.12.1993, p. 63).

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, and with the constant aim of reducing accidents as much as possible, the Council:

- (1) supports the Commission Recommendation which aims at encouraging Member States' national, regional and local authorities to calculate expenditure on road safety measures and to monitor their effects, in order to compare expenditure with savings calculated on the basis of the total cost of accidents avoided;
- (2) invites the abovementioned authorities to increase their investment in road safety projects and create new incentives, in particular financial incentives, designed to speed up investment at all levels;
- (3) encourages the Member States to implement the Convention on Driving Disqualifications, signed on 17 June 1998⁽²⁾;
- (4) invites the Member States to complete the work already initiated under the Schengen Convention aimed at drawing up a cooperation agreement on proceedings for road traffic offences and the enforcement of financial penalties imposed in respect thereof.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 216, 10.7.1998, p. 2.

In addition, the Council invites the Commission to:

- (5) submit as quickly as possible the legislative proposals referred to above;
 - (6) continue work on investigative and information measures;
 - (7) continue, in cooperation with the Member States, work aimed at improving the quality of the CARE database and harmonising the concepts used;
 - (8) take into account when drafting its next action programme:
 - this resolution;
 - any measures which could reduce the harmful consequences of inappropriate speed for road safety;
 - the wisdom of setting a target figure for a reduction in the total number of victims on the roads of the Community.
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**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE MINISTERS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL
POLICY, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL**

of 29 June 2000

on the balanced participation of women and men in family and working life

(2000/C 218/02)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE MINISTERS
FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL POLICY, MEETING WITHIN THE
COUNCIL,

to be taken into account in the field of the reconciliation
of family and working life.

Whereas:

- (1) The Treaty of Amsterdam lays down that the Community shall have as its task the promotion of equality between men and women, and to this end creates new possibilities for Community action, in particular in Articles 2, 3, 137 and 141 of the Treaty establishing the European Community.
- (2) The principle of equality between men and women makes it essential to offset the disadvantage faced by women with regard to conditions for access to and participation in the labour market and the disadvantage faced by men with regard to participating in family life, arising from social practices which still presuppose that women are chiefly responsible for unpaid work related to looking after a family and men chiefly responsible for paid work derived from an economic activity.
- (3) The principle of equality between men and women in relation to employment and labour implies equal sharing between working fathers and mothers, in particular of time off work to look after children or other dependants.
- (4) The balanced participation of women and of men in both the labour market and in family life which is an advantage to both men and women is an essential aspect of the development of society, and maternity, paternity and the rights of children are eminent social values to be protected by society, the Member States and the European Community.
- (5) Both men and women, without discrimination on the grounds of sex, have a right to reconcile family and working life.
- (6) There is a significant *acquis communautaire*, as well as other relevant initiatives in the European Union context,
- (7) Council Decision 2000/228/EC of 13 March 2000 on Guidelines for Member States' employment policies for the year 2000⁽¹⁾ provides for strengthening policies for equal opportunities for men and women, paying particular attention to the need to introduce measures for reconciling working and family life. This Decision underlines the importance for men and women of policies on career breaks, parental leave and part-time work, as well as flexible working arrangements which serve the interests of both employers and employees, while maintaining the necessary balance between flexibility and safety.
- (8) The Lisbon European Council of 23 and 24 March 2000 recognised the importance of furthering all aspects of equal opportunities, including reducing occupational segregation, and making it easier to reconcile working life and family life, and considered that one of the overall aims of active employment policies should be to increase the number of women in employment to more than 60% by 2010.
- (9) There is a range of international instruments and agreements relating to the reconciling of working and family life, in particular in the context of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the International Labour Organisation.
- And bearing in mind that:
- (10) In the light of Article 141(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, it is important to protect both male and female workers exercising rights relating to paternity, maternity or to the reconciling of working and family life.
- (11) The beginning of the twenty-first century is a symbolic moment to give shape to the new social contract on

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 72, 21.3.2000, p. 15.

gender, in which the *de facto* equality of men and women in the public and private domains will be socially accepted as a condition for democracy, a prerequisite for citizenship and a guarantee of individual autonomy and freedom, and will be reflected in all European Union policies,

untransferable right to paternity leave, subsequent upon the birth or adoption of a child, maintaining their rights relating to employment to be taken at the same time as the mother takes maternity leave irrespective of the length of the periods of maternity and paternity leave;

1. DECLARE THAT:

- (a) the objective of balanced participation of men and women in family and working life, coupled with the objective of balanced participation of men and women in the decision-making process, constitute two particularly relevant conditions for equality between men and women;
- (b) there is a need for a global and integrated approach for reconciling family and working life as a right for men and women, a means of personal fulfillment in public, social, family and private life, an eminent social value, as the responsibility of society, the Member States and the European Community;
- (c) it is necessary to make every effort and to promote specific measures, as well as the respective accompanying and evaluation measures, in particular by means of appropriate indicators, to bring about the changes in structures and attitudes which are essential for the balanced participation of men and women in the family and at work;
- (d) it is necessary to promote measures to improve the quality of life for all, in respect and in active solidarity between men and women *vis-à-vis* both future and older generations.

- (ii) examining the scope for the respective legal systems to grant working men rights likely to provide major support for family life with a view to cementing equality;
- (iii) reinforcing measures to encourage a balanced sharing between working men and women of the care to be provided for children, elderly, disabled or other dependent persons;
- (iv) reinforcing measures to encourage the development of support services for families and laying down criteria for examining results as regards the improvement of child-care structures;
- (v) granting, where appropriate, specific protection to single-parent families;
- (vi) examining the possibility of harmonising school and working hours;
- (vii) examining the possibility of developing school programmes supporting an awareness of the needs related to reconciling working and family life as a precondition for the equality of men and women;

2. ENCOURAGE Member States to:

- (a) reinforce in their Government programmes the promotion of balanced participation of men and women in family and working life as one of the basic conditions for *de facto* equality, indicating the concrete measures to be adopted, both horizontal and specific;
- (b) develop global and integrated strategies aimed at bringing about the balanced participation of men and women in family and working life, considering the measures enumerated below, without prejudice to the best practices applied in the different Member States:
 - (i) examining the scope for the respective legal systems to grant working men an individual and

- (viii) regularly compiling and publishing a report containing figures on the participation of women and men in the labour market and of men and women in family life, as well as on the use by women and men of maternity, paternity and parental leave, and their respective effects on the situation of men and women in the labour market, in order to acquire accurate knowledge of the factual situation and to promote public awareness in this area;
- (ix) providing support for scientific research in this area so as to enable the development of new ideas and concepts;
- (x) developing incentives and support measures for non-governmental organisations which are actively committed to the objective set out in this resolution;

- (xi) devising, launching and promoting information and awareness campaigns at regular intervals, designed to develop more progressive outlooks as regards both the general public and specific target groups;
- (xii) encouraging businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, to introduce and extend management practices which take account of their workers' family life.
3. CALL UPON the institutions and bodies of the European Community:
- (a) to implement measures, in their capacity as employers and on the basis of a review, promoting the balanced recruitment and career advancement of men and women with a view to preventing the horizontal and vertical segregation of the labour market;
- (b) to evaluate the results thereof periodically and have them published.
4. CALL ON the Commission:
- (a) notably within the framework of Community initiative programmes, to step up its information and awareness effort and its efforts to promote research and to introduce pilot schemes to implement the balanced participation of men and women in family and working life;
- (b) to take account of this resolution in its fifth action programme on equal opportunities for men and women, notably placing emphasis on equality of family responsibilities of men and women in the context of its strategic objectives and giving sufficient prominence to measures to promote the balanced participation of men and women in working and family life;
- (c) to propose, in the light of the new requirements laid down in Article 2, 3, 137(1) and 141(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community and taking into account the aforementioned fifth action programme, new forms of balanced participation of women and men both in working and family life;
- (d) to work towards developing dialogue between the social partners at European level, whilst respecting their autonomy, with a view to the promotion of equality between men and women by reconciling family and working life;
- (e) to ensure that the Member States are kept informed regularly on progress made in this area.
5. CALL on employers in the public and private sectors, workers and the social partners at national and European level:
- (a) to step up their efforts to ensure balanced participation of men and women in family and working life, notably through the organisation of working time and the abolition of conditions which lead to wage differentials between men and women;
- (b) in particular the social partners to endeavour to find solutions which encourage the balanced participation of men and women in working life.
6. UNDERTAKE TO conduct regular discussions on the topics covered by this resolution in a parallel framework to the topic of balanced participation of men and women in the decision-making process.
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COUNCIL RESOLUTION**of 29 June 2000****on action on health determinants**

(2000/C 218/03)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Whereas:

- (1) The European Community must make a contribution towards ensuring a high-level of health protection.
- (2) Key challenges in this context include genetic, biological, lifestyle and behavioural, environmental, social, economic and political factors which can have a significant influence on people's health.
- (3) The Community should always be equipped to meet these challenges both in terms of policy and measures and in terms of appropriate political and administrative structures, particularly bearing in mind the future enlargement of the Community.
- (4) Some of the abovementioned factors can be influenced by action by the individual and some by the organised efforts of society, including institutions at national and European level, either directly or indirectly.
- (5) The future health strategy of the European Community should aim at addressing, within the powers provided for by the Treaty, factors that act as health determinants, through prevention and health promotion measures and the development of healthy policies in all other areas of Community activity,
- (6) TAKES NOTE of the results of the debates held at the European Conference on health determinants in the European Union held at Evora on 15 and 16 March 2000, which placed particular emphasis on mental health and the health of young people, and on tobacco, alcohol and nutrition, and recommended a series of practical and targeted steps to address the challenges in these areas.
- (7) UNDERLINES the need for the Community to direct its action towards preventing disease and promoting health, in order to reduce premature deaths from preventable diseases and to maximise disability-free life expectancy among the EU population.
- (8) STRESSES that the Community should consider in which areas it can take action most effectively, then design and implement appropriate strategies, in close cooperation with the Member States, bearing in mind the need to take account of the important cultural and socio-economic differences between Member States.
- (9) CONSIDERS that the increasing differences in health status and health outcomes between and within Member States call for renewed and coordinated efforts at the national and Community level and require that a main focus of the Community health strategy must be on tackling health inequalities.
- (10) STRESSES the importance of the new Community public health strategy building upon the activities on specific determinants taken in the existing programmes, especially with respect to tobacco, nutrition and alcohol; underlines its view that it is important not only to ensure continuity with existing actions, but to take forward work on these issues in a fully coherent and systematic way.
- (11) POINTS OUT that the Community possesses a large array of policies and means by which to bring about a significant and beneficial shift in the way some of the key health determinants come to influence people's health and it would be, therefore, necessary to marshal energies and resources to achieve in each relevant sector tangible progress towards ensuring such shift.
- (12) INSISTS on the need to develop expertise in evaluating the impact of the other policies on health and its determinants.

- (13) STRESSES the fundamental importance of sharing and disseminating scientific knowledge.
- (14) WELCOMES the Commission's commitment to developing a broad health strategy and the presentation of its proposal for a new health programme, containing a specific strand of action aimed at addressing health determinants by means of health promotion and disease prevention underpinned by inter-sectoral policy; concurs with the Commission that there is a need to develop the appropriate knowledge base for this and, therefore, an efficacious health monitoring system must be established for this purpose.
- (15) INVITES the Commission to take account of these considerations as well as of the results of the mid-term evaluations of existing programmes in drawing up detailed plans and implementation strategies for the new programme on public health and in ensuring a smooth transition from the existing action programmes.
- (16) INVITES the Commission to complete, with external evaluators, the evaluation of the existing programmes foreseen in their decisions before the start of the new action programme so that the evaluation results can be used in the start-up of the new programme.
- (17) INVITES the Commission, in carrying forward its broad health strategy, to exploit the full potential for Community action in relation to health determinants using the full range of possibilities for action under the Treaty so as fully to ensure a high level of health protection in the definition and implementation of all Community policies and activities.
- (18) CALLS UPON the Member States to provide their full support to such policies and facilitate their implementation at national and Community level.
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COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS**of 29 June 2000****on Medicinal Products and Public Health**

(2000/C 218/04)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

- (1) TAKES NOTE of the conclusions of the debates at the European Conference on Medicinal Products and Public Health held at Lisbon on 11 and 12 April 2000 on the future of the European System for Evaluation and Supervision of Medicinal Products, the relevance of the added therapeutic value of medicinal products, aspects determining innovation and research, the rational use of medicinal products, the importance and evolution trends for the information systems for medicinal products, the increasing use of generic medicines and the key issues on veterinary medicinal products.
- (2) UNDERLINES the continuing need for regulation, at the appropriate national or Community level, of the pharmaceutical sector to reconcile private supply and social objectives. Policy must ensure the widest possible access to appropriate medicines and respond to the challenges of dynamic pharmaceutical markets, taking into account the significance of the European pharmaceutical industry as an efficient leading technology sector with high creation of added value, providing qualified jobs. In this context the Community has an opportunity, within the powers provided for by the Treaty, to assist Member States in their efforts to pursue public health and industrial policy objectives. This is particularly important in the context of enlargement.
- (3) STRESSES the fact that the forthcoming review of the Community legislation on pharmaceuticals should take fully into account that the centralised and decentralised authorisation procedures are and must be based on the principle of cooperation and close involvement of Member States in the authorisation process.
- (4) UNDERLINES that identification of medicines with significant added therapeutic value is of great importance to promote innovation, which is vital not only from a health-protection perspective but also from an industrial policy viewpoint and that this requires relevant basic and applied research, both at national and Community level.
- (5) RECALLS the importance of actions in the framework of the strategy against antibiotic resistance as suggested in the resolutions adopted by the Council at its meeting on 8 June 1999 (Health) and 12 December 1999 (Agriculture).
- (6) POINTS OUT that given that the increasing demands on health care put great pressures on available resources, it is imperative that expenditure on medicines, like all other areas of health care is assessed to ensure that it provides a rational use of medicinal products, and considers that collaboration between Member States to share experience and develop evaluation methodologies can be of great value in this regard.
- (7) CONSIDERS it important to develop databases to provide industry-independent information on medicines to health professionals and also, as appropriate, to the public, for example on generic drugs. This should be done in parallel with the extension of existing information systems.
- (8) STRESSES that the promotion of the use of generics can have an important impact in reducing pharmaceutical expenditure by promoting cost-effective use. The use of generics also creates headroom in pharmaceutical expenditure to help pay for new innovative products.
- (9) POINTS OUT that issues in relation to quality, safety and efficacy arise in respect of medicinal products for use in the veterinary field, in the same way as for human medicines. Moreover the safety of the consumer of animal-derived products, the safe usage of veterinary medicinal products, policies on the eradication of certain infectious diseases, the possible diffusion into the environment and protection against some misuses, have also to be considered.
- (10) INVITES the Commission to take account of the abovementioned considerations where they are relevant to drawing up detailed plans and implementation strategies

for the new programme on public health and the forthcoming review of Community legislation on pharmaceuticals.

and exchange of experience between Member States, using the full range of possibilities for action under the Treaty.

(11) URGES the Commission in carrying forward its broad health strategy, to exploit the full potential for Community action in relation to medicinal products and public health, particularly action to promote cooperation

(12) ENCOURAGES the Member States to provide their full support so such policies and facilitate their implementation at national and Community level.
