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MEPs refer new rules on re-registering cars back to committee

Draft rules to simplify re-registering of car or motorbike when the owner moves to a new EU country were referred back to the Internal Market Committee on Wednesday for further discussion, because the Council of Ministers was not yet ready to close a deal on them.

The rules, on which the lead MEP was Toine Manders (ALDE, NL), aim to simplify the re-registration process, ensure mutual recognition of roadworthiness tests and link up national databases containing the names of vehicle holders.

"If the Council does not want to simplify life for 3 million citizens re-registering their cars each year and if the British press writes complete lies five weeks before elections we cannot do our democratic work. Therefore we ask for the vote to be postponed until after the elections", Mr. Manders said just before it was to have been taken.

Re-registering a car in another EU country is one of the 20 key single market concerns cited by citizens. The European Commission estimates that simplifying the process could save business and citizens almost €1.5 billion a year.

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