

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3172/01
by Maria Sanders-ten Holte (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Dangers to children travelling as passengers on motorbikes

In the Netherlands, there are laws about transporting children in motor vehicles on the public highway. On mopeds and bicycles proper child-seats are required, yet if children ride pillion on motorbikes, they are only required to wear helmets.

In practice, this means that some motor-cyclists use child-seats intended for bicycles or mopeds, some strap the child to themselves and others take no precautions at all. This leads to very dangerous situations, children generally being less well protected than motor-cyclists are themselves.

As far as I know, no European legislation yet exists on this subject.

1. Is there a loophole in the law here which endangers children on motorbikes?
2. What legislation exists on this subject in other Member States?
3. Will the Commission investigate this matter, and might it propose European legislation (e.g. framework legislation)?