

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0566/03
by Luciano Caveri (ELDR)
to the Commission

Subject: Problems relating to audible warning devices

Directive 70/388/EEC¹ indicates minimum values for type approval of audible warning devices for motor vehicles, ruling out the possibility of a mechanism for reducing the volume of the horn to avoid environmental pollution (e.g. while driving slowly or at night) or increasing the volume in specific circumstances (e.g. while driving at high speeds). However, Directive 93/30/EEC² requires the audible warning devices on less powerful motorcycles and mopeds to have a lower sound level and this frequently causes accidents between mopeds and pedestrians, as is clearly illustrated by accident statistics.

As regards the first point, does the Commission not consider that an amendment should be proposed to the directive to authorise intelligent audible warning devices which will adjust the sound level according to circumstances? As for the second point, should the sound levels of audible warning devices for two- or three-wheel motor vehicles not be the same as those authorised for more powerful motorcycles?

¹ OJ L 176, 10.8.1970, p. 12.

² OJ L 188, 29.7.1993, p. 11.