

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2320/03
by Christoph Konrad (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: First aid at the scene of an accident

The Commission recently drew attention to the enormous death toll on the roads in EU Member States and submitted an extensive road safety action programme. Against this background, on 20 June 2003 the Commission adopted a proposal for a directive which would make it compulsory, from July 2004, for all types of vehicles newly placed on the market to be fitted with seatbelts.

1. According to the information at the Commission's disposal, would the situation be improved if all applicants for driving licences in the European Union were required to take a short course in emergency measures at the scene of an accident, which is already compulsory in Germany and Austria, for example? If so, will the Commission submit a legislative proposal to this effect in the foreseeable future?

2. Would a qualified first aid course, such as those which the St John's Ambulance Brigade offers to all driving licence-holders in Britain, considerably improve first aid in emergencies? If so, will the Commission submit a legislative proposal on the subject in the foreseeable future?

3. Are the existing rules on the contents of first aid kits for vehicles licensed in EU Member States and the applicant countries adequate? In connection with the requirement to keep a first aid kit in a vehicle, would a minimum level of instruction to ensure its proper use be appropriate? If so, will the Commission submit a legislative proposal on the subject in the foreseeable future?