



2015/0249(NLE)

29.03.2016

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of Revision 3 of the Agreement of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles and the conditions for the reciprocal recognition of approvals granted on the basis of these prescriptions ('Revised 1958 Agreement') (13954/2015 – C8-0112/2016 – 2015/0249(NLE))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: Bernd Lange

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the draft Council decision on the conclusion of Revision 3 of the Agreement of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles and the conditions for the reciprocal recognition of approvals granted on the basis of these prescriptions ('Revised 1958 Agreement') (13954/2015 – C8-0112/2016 – 2015/0249(NLE))

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (13954/2015),
 - having regard to the Revision 3 of the Agreement of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, equipment and parts which can be fitted and/or used on wheeled vehicles and the conditions for the reciprocal recognition of approvals granted on the basis of these prescriptions ('Revised 1958 Agreement') (13954/2015),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 207 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C8-0112/2016),
 - having regard to Rule 99(1), first and third subparagraphs, Rule 99 (2), and Rule 108(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade (A8-0000/2016)
1. Gives its consent to conclusion of the agreement;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Given the growing interconnectedness of global markets (up to 40% of European industrial products are manufactured from imported upstream products) and since industrial production increasingly takes place in global value chains, the removal of unnecessary barriers to trade and cooperation in regulatory matters are fundamental to maintaining and strengthening a competitive and diversified industrial base in Europe.

The automotive industry and the related auxiliary industries are a core economic sector for the European Union. The automotive sector provides jobs for 12 million people and accounts for 4% of the EU's GDP. It is important for upstream industries (e.g. steel, chemicals) and downstream industries (e.g. ICT, mobility services). The EU is among the world's biggest producers of motor vehicles and the sector represents the largest private investor in research and development.

The automotive industry presents a well-integrated value chain in which almost all Member States are involved. Moreover, it offers very high added value along the entire chain and plays an important role in the Eurozone trade balance. In order to maintain the vital position of the automotive industry, the EU must strengthen the competitiveness of the EU automotive industry and preserve its global technological leadership.

International regulatory cooperation has the potential to promote a transparent, effective, pro-competitive economic environment while developing and securing the highest levels of protection of health and safety. In addition, regulatory coherence and transparency is necessary for the development and implementation of efficient, cost-effective, and more compatible regulations.

Global regulatory cooperation in the framework of UNECE as a model should be reflected and strengthened and not undermined in bilateral trade agreements.

The EU must provide support to global technological harmonisation. Common technical requirements like the UNECE framework help reduce development costs, reduce costs of production and certification and avoid duplication of administrative procedures.

It is of the utmost importance that the EU is able to present its position at the June 2016 UNECE meeting. In this sense, the Council in its letter has kindly requested to do so and to try to vote in Plenary in May. Given that the rapporteur's will is to respect the principle of multilingualism and to give as much publicity to this consent as possible, the proposal is to vote in the June plenary.