

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0507/03
by Emilia Müller (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Europe-wide introduction of an innovative mounting system for roadside reflector posts

A good system of reflector posts is vital for road safety, since it helps drivers get their bearings, particularly at night. For drivers who are not familiar with the route, reflector posts are a necessary aid which enables them to drive safely. A new mounting system for reflector posts makes it possible to halve the height of traditional posts, with the reflector posts being fixed onto a support structure. The posts are thus raised from the ground. The mounting system itself is not placed directly at the side of the road – as is necessary with traditional posts – but further away from the road on the outer verge. The support arms on which the reflector posts are mounted reach in to the current position of the posts. This plastic or steel construction offers significant benefits in terms of safety – particularly for motor cyclists – and reduces the general risk of accident and injury. Unlike traditional posts, the new posts do not hinder mowing and cleaning work on the verge. The potential savings this will offer for local councils, regions and other bodies responsible for road maintenance in terms of work and cost are considerable.

Can the Commission say whether any further harmonisation is planned in the near future in the area of road building and transport?

Are any efforts being made towards approximating the way in which roads are equipped in the EU Member States?

Can the reflector posts described above be introduced throughout Europe?