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Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

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DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs

for the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

on CARS 21: A competitive automotive regulatory framework for the 21st
Century
(2007/2120(INI))

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs calls on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Commission communication on CARS 21 in that it applies the Lisbon strategy of boosting growth and employment to the motor vehicle industry, one of the pillars of the European and world economies;
2. Supports an integrated strategy that lays down policy aims and enables a flexible response to be made in line with the principle of better lawmaking; endorses the international harmonisation of regulations under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), with a view to simplifying and streamlining regulation;
3. Points to the essential need to speed up the process of improving European motor vehicles across the board, with fleets being replaced at affordable prices; draws attention to the special responsibility of the public sector;
4. Advocates the adoption of a simple taxation policy that is in keeping with the objectives of the Union; endorses the abolition of vehicle registration tax, the refund of tax paid twice on cross-border transactions, the introduction of elements based directly on CO2 emissions and the establishment of a European framework for tax incentives for innovative safety and environmental technologies;
5. Points out that the principle of fair reward for intellectual property right holders is compatible with efforts to boost competition and improve the internal market; calls for international protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights to be promoted;
6. Stresses the need to enhance competition with independent after-sales services and in the spare-parts market;
7. Advocates tying the review of the motor vehicle sector exemption to the mid-term review of CARS 21, facilitating cooperation between sector operators, preventing public aid from being misappropriated and promoting competition policy at international level.