



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 15.04.1998

COM(1998) 227 final

97/0199 (SYN)

Amended proposal for a

COUNCIL REGULATION (EC)

**on the recognition in intra-Community traffic of the distinguishing sign of the
Member State in which motor vehicles and their trailers are registered**

(presented by the Commission pursuant to Article 189 a (2)
of the EC-Treaty)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

- A. . On 15 July 1997 the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Regulation (EC) on the recognition in intra-Community traffic of the distinguishing sign of the Member State in which motor vehicles and their trailers are registered (COM(97) 366 final - SYN 97/0199) ¹.
- . On 28 January 1998 ² the Economic and Social Committee gave a favourable opinion.
- . On 19 February 1998 ³ the European Parliament gave an opinion on the proposal at the first reading.
- . The Commission accepts amendment 2.
The Commission accepts amendment 3 first and second parts and amendment 3 third part with a change of wording
- . The Commission could not accept the other amendments proposed by the Parliament for the following reasons :
- amendment 1 is rejected since the definition refers to the symbol in capital letter(s) of the Member State of registration ; it does not refer to the blue zone or yellow stars of the European Union symbol nor does it set where it should be located (the latter being set in the second part of amendment 3 that is accepted);
 - amendments 4, 5, 6, 7 which aim at introducing an alternative elliptic sign, since the rationale for requiring mutual recognition through a Council regulation is that the sign is issued under control of national authorities as part of an official document being the number plate, which is not the case for a separate sticker

B. The Commission therefore modifies its proposal as follows :

Amendment No 1 : adds "and their trailers" to the word vehicles (Article 2)

Amendment No 2 : - adds "and their trailers" to the word vehicles
- adds "on the left-hand side of the number plate" to the word displayed
- adds "as being equivalent to any other distinguishing sign which they recognize for the purpose of identifying the State of registration of the vehicle."

¹ O.J. No C 290 of 24.09.1997, p. 25.

² O.J. No C ...

³ O.J. No C ...

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The Commission proposal in document COM(97) 366 final - SYN 97/0199 is amended as follows :

Text initially proposed by the Commission	Amended text
(Amendment 1)	
Article 2	
This Regulation shall apply to vehicles registered in the Member States that are driven in the Community.	This Regulation shall apply to vehicles <u>and their trailers</u> registered in the Member States that are driven in the Community.

(Amendment 2)	
Article 3	
Member States requiring vehicles registered in another Member State to display a distinguishing registration sign when they are being driven on their territory shall recognize the distinguishing registration sign displayed in accordance with the specifications in the annex to this Regulation.	Member States requiring vehicles <u>and their trailers</u> registered in another Member State to display a distinguishing registration sign when they are being driven on their territory shall recognize the distinguishing registration sign displayed <u>on the left-hand side of the number plate</u> in accordance with the specifications in the annex to this Regulation <u>as being equivalent to any other distinguishing sign which they recognize for the purpose of identifying the State of registration of the vehicle.</u>

ISSN 0254-1475

COM(98) 227 final

DOCUMENTS

EN

07 14 02 06

Catalogue number : CB-CO-98-240-EN-C

ISBN 92-78-33174-0

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

L-2985 Luxembourg