



**European
community**

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington D.C. 20037 • Telephone: (202) 296-5131
New York Office: 155 E. 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 • Telephone: (212) MU 2-0458

No. 16

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 1972

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CUTS RED TAPE FOR MOTORISTS

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 3 -- Tourists motoring in Europe this summer will find frontier-crossings inside the Common Market easier and quicker.

Beginning the first of August, at the height of Europe's vacation season, car drivers will be freed of the requirement to show automobile insurance proof when crossing from one country into another. The move is the result of a directive approved in Brussels this week by the Council of Ministers of the European Community.

No longer will drivers have to dig out their familiar "green cards" for border officials as evidence that their vehicles are insured. The step was made possible when Italy last year became the last Community member to adopt mandatory auto insurance, thus clearing the way for legislative harmonization in this field.

In spite of the minor nature of the decision, Community spokesmen regarded it as very significant in the sense that the average European seldom sees visible evidence of the process of Europe's integration.

The move will not end all delays at border crossings. However, the Commission has pledged to propose regulations which ultimately will reduce borders of the member countries to solely historical symbols.

###