

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1982-1983

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4 JUNE 1982

DOCUMENT 1-287/82

REPORT

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on  
the standardization of car bumpers

Rapporteur: Mr von WOGAU



On 21 January 1982 a motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-941/81) on the standardization of car bumpers tabled by Mr Eisma, Mr Albers and Mr de Goede pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure was referred to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs.

At its meeting of 23 February 1982 the committee appointed Mr von Wogau rapporteur.

It considered the draft report at its meeting of 18 May in Rome and adopted it unanimously at the same meeting. It also decided to request Parliament to adopt the report without debate pursuant to Rule 34 of the Rules of Procedure.

The following took part in the vote: Mr Moreau, chairman; Mr de Ferranti, vice-chairman; Mr Beazley, Mr Bonaccini, Mr Caborn, Mrs Carettoni Romagnoli (deputizing for Mrs Hoffman), Mr Carossino (deputizing for Mr Leonardi), Mrs Desouches, Mr Dido (deputizing for Mr Schinzel), Miss Forster, Mr Giavazzi, Mr de Goede, Mr Hopper, Mrs Kalliopi Nikolaou (deputizing for Mr Rogers), Mr Nyborg, Mr Purvis, Mr Rogalla (deputizing for Mr Mihr) and Mr Ruffolo.

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ANNEX: Motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-948/81)

A

The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution, together with explanatory statement:

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the standardization of car bumpers

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-941/81) tabled pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure,
  - having regard to the report of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (Doc. 1-287/82)
1. Considers that the absence of harmonization in respect of the dimensions, quality and design of car bumpers and the height above ground at which they are fitted results in substantial material damage;
  2. Requests the Commission, therefore, to extend the current study on the biomechanical aspects of car bumpers to include an investigation of the possibilities of standardization and harmonization in this field.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

1. A study of the regulations on car bumpers in the different Member States shows that only the United Kingdom has specific regulations in this field. Although the regulations in the United Kingdom do not stipulate that the bumpers of all cars must be fitted at the same height above ground level, the authorities have nonetheless succeeded in solving the problems caused by bumpers to some extent. As most Member States do not have any legislation in this field, car bumpers have not yet given rise to any technical barriers to intra-Community trade and the Commission has therefore seen no reason to undertake an in-depth study of the possible standardization and harmonization of the dimensions, quality and design of car bumpers and the height above ground at which they must be fitted. However, the fact that car bumpers are at different heights above ground level results in a quite considerable amount of bodywork damage each year which could be prevented if car bumpers were all fitted at the same height. Consequently, on the grounds of damage prevention, there should be a detailed study of the possibilities of harmonization in this field and of the inclusion of car bumpers in the type-approval procedure for cars, even though such harmonization is not necessary to eliminate technical barriers to trade.

2. The Commission is currently conducting a study of the biomechanical aspects of car bumpers. The type of bumper appears to be a significant factor in car accidents involving pedestrians and in side-on collisions. This was the reason for the Commission conducting a study in this field, which it expects to be completed towards the end of this year. Since the Commission is already involved in this study it would not be a difficult task to extend the scope of the study to include the aspects referred to above, in particular the possibility of limiting significantly bodywork damage caused by minor accidents by harmonizing car bumpers. The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs therefore requests the Commission to extend the scope of its study accordingly.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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20 January 1982

DOCUMENT 1-941/81

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

tabled by Mr EISMA, Mr ALBERS and Mr de GOEDE

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the standardization of car bumpers

The European Parliament,

WHEREAS

- (a) the bodywork damage caused each year by minor accidents in the Community runs into millions,
  - (b) this damage could be reduced considerably if all cars in the Community were fitted with strong bumpers with rubber protection and above all at a standard height,
  - (c) many car manufacturers (e.g. Volvo, Saab) have begun producing models with standard bumpers,
  - (d) regulations to this effect already exist in the United States,
  - (e) it is therefore now high time for international standards also to be laid down in Europe for these items,
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- 1. Requests the Commission to examine the possibility of standardizing and harmonizing the dimensions, quality and design of car bumpers and the height above ground at which they are fitted and to make a cost/benefit analysis on the subject and, if the results prove positive, to draw up an appropriate directive;
  
  - 2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and to the governments of the Member States.