

Possibilities for speed limited passenger cars for young drivers

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Brussels

Background for speed limited cars

- Aims behind the project:
 - Mobility for young people, Finland's geographical and climatic characteristics
 - Increased road safety, concerns of moped cars safety, better possibilities to use also in winter time
- Current alternatives for 15-18 year olds with category AM-license in Finland:
 - Mopeds
 - Category L6e light quadricycles
 - T3a/b-category
- The national parliament passed legislation on light weight cars in December 2018:
 - Changes to maximum speed from 45 km/h to 60 km/h
 - Observations from the Commission and discussions in 2018



Current situation

- Parliamentary elections took place in April 2019
- Notification of the government degrees and regulations to the Commission
- New observations from the Commission in August 2019
- The new government considered that the Commission observations should be taken seriously and proposed postponing the entry into force of the Act
- The Finnish parliament passed legislation that postponed the entry into force by one year, until 1 November 2020
- The aim is to find out whether the Finnish legislation on lightweight cars can be amended to better comply with the European Union legislation
- The parliament's transport and communications committee has requested the Ministry of Transport and Communications to take all necessary measures to find a solution
- In practice, we need to find out very soon, whether the legislation needs to be amended or repealed
- There's been a lot of interest from private persons and in public

Commission's concerns, accordance with the EU's driving licence directive

- The way in which a vehicle is categorized for type-approval purposes under Regulation (EU) No 167/2013 is not relevant for the purposes of the definition of 'agricultural or forestry tractor' in the driving license directive
 - In the first observations, the Commission refers to requirements of category T1 in regulation (EU) 167/2013
- According to the definition of tractors in driving license directive, carrying persons or goods by road is only a secondary function of tractors, whereas the 'lightweight vehicles' are intended primarily for the carrying of persons
 - 'lightweight vehicles' would fall under the category of 'motor vehicle' as defined in driving license directive

Intpretation of the definition 'Agricultural or forestry tractor'

- Category T type-approved vehicles have been considered to fall under the definition of an 'agricultural or forestry tractor' in the driving license directive
- In Sweden it is possible to convert an M or N category vehicle as an 'A' tractor
- National requirements for driving license:



Commission's concerns

- Road safety
 - Lightweight cars have a considerable mass of up to a ton and a half,
 - a powerful engine,
 - may carry five persons including the driver
 - relatively high speed considering their weight and power
 - Speed limitation by means of an electronic device that may be subject to tampering, and not through heavy mechanical modifications that are difficult to revert, raises additional concerns

Possible solutions

- A national driving licence category
- Lowering the maximum speed to, for example, 45 km/h
- Lowering the maximum mass and engine power
- Limiting the amount of passengers allowed in the vehicle
- Stricter training requirements (including mandatory driving lessons)

Solutions already in place

- Keeping the age requirement for the vehicle; ABS, ESC, emergency braking assistant, pedestrian safety
- Keeping the careful monitoring requirements of the impacts of the legislation
- Strengthening the role of national authorities in information campaigns and education

Considered but not ideal options

- Structural alterations that would make the vehicles more like traditional tractors
 - Would not promote road safety
 - Would not be an environmentally friendly solution
- Requiring a towing ability
 - Would not promote road safety
- Requiring a mechanical speed limiter
 - Electronic speed limiter should be sufficient, as is the case with heavy duty vehicles
 - Experience in Sweden shows mechanical limiters are subject to large-scale tampering
- Requiring automatic transmission
 - Simplifies controlling of the car, increases the weight of the car and limits the selection of suitable models



Thank you!