

VIOLETA BULC
Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 03. 12. 2015
NvP

Mr Bernd LANGE
Member of the European Parliament
European Parliament
ASP 12 G 201
Rue Wiertz 60
1047 Brussels

Dear Mr Lange,

Thank you very much for your letter received on 16 October in which you advocate for a consistent approach regarding the handling of historic vehicles in the EU and ask the non-binding guidance documents under preparation to exempt such vehicles from urban vehicle access regulations.

Urban transport is in principal a Member State competence. Nevertheless, there are significant potentials for developing and applying common approaches that will help completing the Single European transport area.

In this context, I understand that a commonly applied definition of historic vehicles is of paramount importance for stakeholders. I agree that the definition contained in Directive 2014/45/EU on periodic roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles is indeed a good reference in order to categorize and define such vehicles and will therefore propose in the guidance document that it is being used by Member States, to ensure that where access regulations refer to historic vehicles, this definition is being used as a reference. Germany has already adopted a very similar definition of historic vehicles applying nationwide and will therefore be pointed out as a best practise example.

However, since the decision whether to exempt historic vehicles from an access regulation scheme needs to be taken on Member State, and in most cases, even local level, the non-binding guidance documents will not specify which vehicle categories to generally exempt from such schemes.

The EP Historic Vehicle Group with you as its chairman and the stakeholders you named will of course remain our interlocutors in the process of elaborating the guidelines and beyond. Thus, please do not hesitate to contact me again should you wish to provide further input to the guidance documents or on any other issue related to historic vehicles.

Yours sincerely,



Violeta BULC