

## PRESS RELEASE



### Obligatory medical checks for everyone: EAC calls for an immediate turnaround on EU driving licences

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The EU Parliament's Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) today voted on its draft report on the EU Driving Licences Directive. The compromise was narrowly adopted by a majority of one vote. Unlike the EU transport ministers, the majority of MEPs on the Transport Committee voted in favor of obligatory medical checks of fitness to drive when issuing and renewing driving licences. This should apply to all driving license holders. In the future drivers will have to prove every 15 years that they are physically and mentally fit to drive a motor vehicle. For drivers over the age of 70, the period of validity can be shortened.

EAC-President Holger Küster comments:

"Obligatory medical checks for everyone mean more unnecessary bureaucracy instead of more road safety. The calculation: if we discriminate against everyone, we discriminate against no one, does not work! We demand voluntary roadworthiness tests without fear of driving license revocation and will fight for practical regulations in the interests of driving license holders.

At least: night driving bans and speed limits for novice drivers, a new SUV driving licence and increase in the minimum age for certain driving licence categories were rejected by a majority.

EAC welcomes the vote in favor of a Europe-wide introduction of accompanied driving. "Accompanied driving is a real success in Austria and Germany. Experienced drivers are safe drivers," says EAC Vice-President Günther Schweizer.

"We rely on the sense of responsibility of parliamentarians and welcome sensible initiatives for road safety. More personal responsibility – less prohibitions," demands Küster.

The final vote in the plenary of the European Parliament will follow in January 2024.

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»EAC European Automobile Clubs«

The interest group EAC European Automobile Clubs represents the interests of approximately 3 million consumers vis à-vis European institutions and political actors. EAC advocates for borderless experienced mobility, open to technology, harmonization of traffic regulations, climate- and social-friendly mobility and enhancing road safety.

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