



No mandatory health checks: EAC welcomes EU driving license decision

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To reduce the high number of traffic fatalities, the European Commission has proposed a revision of the driving license directive. The new EU driving license aims to improve road safety, ensure freedom of movement, harmonize requirements, and promote the green and digital transformation in the EU. By introducing stricter requirements for the issuance and renewal of driving licenses, the goal of zero road traffic fatalities in the EU by 2050 is to be achieved. Therefore, drivers should have to prove their fitness to drive when obtaining or renewing their driving license every 15 years.

During today's plenary session, the European Parliament voted against the introduction of mandatory medical checks. The EAC European Automobile Clubs welcomes this decision.

"Mandatory health checks primarily mean more bureaucracy rather than increased road safety. Studies show that age-based driver fitness assessments are not an effective instrument in significantly reducing severe traffic accidents involving older drivers," explains EAC President Holger Küster.

Although older drivers more frequently bear the primary responsibility when they are involved in accidents, measured against their share of the total population, older people are less frequently involved in accidents and are generally risk-conscious road users. Instead of mandatory driver fitness assessments, voluntary refresher courses, accompanying advisory measures, feedback drives, and awareness campaigns should be promoted, and the effective measures in the respective member states should be maintained.

"We are looking forward to the upcoming trilogue negotiations. The EU Commission has not proposed mandatory health checks; member states should be allowed to decide for themselves. We have demanded that member states be able to individually determine whether and which measures should be introduced on a mandatory or voluntary basis, and we hope that this will be implemented," says Holger Küster.

From EAC's perspective, the introduction of accompanied driving throughout Europe makes an enormous contribution to improving road safety. Accompanied driving is a real success model, greatly benefiting novice drivers and enabling them to gain important driving experience. Driver training and practical experience are crucial for safe participation in road traffic, according to the EAC, rather than arbitrarily defined age limits.

At the outset of negotiations for a new EU driving license directive, the EAC had demanded that all measures for assessing driver fitness should be the responsibility of the member states, and novice and senior drivers must not be disproportionately restricted or discriminated against. Whether it's a road trip, family vacation, doctor's visits, grocery shopping, the daily commute to work, or to the daycare - for many people, the car remains indispensable for meeting their individual mobility needs.

»EAC European Automobile Clubs«

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