

JACQUES BARROT

Vice-président de la Commission européenne

Brussels, 12 MAI 2005
FLM/ad D(2005) 4783

Dear Mr Milnes,

Thank you for your letter dated 31 March on the subject of Daytime Running Lights (DRL), and for your concern about road safety, a subject which I have identified as one of my main priorities. I sympathise with the concerns that you have raised about vulnerable road users.

I can assure you that my services have taken every care to ensure and check the validity of the results of the study you refer to, which was awarded to some of the most respectable safety research institutes following the required tender procedure. The study used a standard modern scientific approach when reviewing the relevant studies that had already covered specific aspects of the subject matter. As per normal practice in research, all outputs were subjected to peer-review. Thus I am confident that this research employed a valid scientific approach and that it resulted in a convincing impact statement on the safety and environmental effects of DRL.

Overall, it is my view that the Consortium has dealt with a complex issue in a systematic manner. The results of the study were presented to the High Level Group for Road Safety in December last year. This High Level Group is composed of the Road Safety Directors from the EU Member States, Norway, Iceland and Switzerland and chaired by the Commission services; it provides a forum for discussion and exchange of views on general road safety issues. The comments from the Member States showed widespread endorsement for the DRL concept.

In light of the points you raise in your letter, my services have requested the authors of the DRL study to provide supplementary explanation of the results obtained, which, if you wish, you may get from my services, and in particular from Mr Dimitrios Theologitis, Head of the Road Safety Unit, DM28 – 01/109, B1049 Brussels, Belgium.

I thank you for your contribution to the debate on DRL.

Yours sincerely,


Jacques BARROT

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