

# Memo



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**From:** Britta Jahnke

## **Subject: Council reaches political agreement on the driving licence directive**

Today the Council of (Transport) Ministers reached a political agreement regarding the European driving licence. Common European rules will facilitate the free movement of EU drivers. A single model in credit card format will replace the more than 110 different models currently in circulation.

During the long ongoing discussion sport organisations in Europe had clearly taken position against a tightening of currently valid weight regulations for trailers in category B driving licences. This had been intended by the European Commission in its original text proposal from 2003. However Members of the European Parliament were successfully sensitised to the concerns of sport. The Council approached the European Parliament in this point and thus agreed upon the following rule on vehicle-trailer combinations in category B which even improves the current situation:

Current Directive	Future Directive
Cars (category B)  Combinations with a trailer of more than 750 kg are allowed as long as the maximum authorised mass (MAM) of the trailer does not exceed the unladen mass of the towing vehicle and the combination does not exceed 3500 kg	Cars (category B)  Combinations with a trailer of more than 750 kg are allowed up to 4250 kg when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Respecting type-approval rules</li><li>• Passing a training and/or a test for combinations between 3500 and 4250 kg</li></ul>

Following the political agreement of today, the formal adoption of the directive by the European Parliament will be effective later this year in a second reading. Thus the directive will enter into force by the end of 2006 and therefore be applicable at the latest at the end of 2012.

Press releases in regards to this political agreement:

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/381&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/06/143&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

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