

PRESS RELEASE

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**European Commission's proposal on periodic roadworthiness tests:
mutual recognition approach much welcomed – need to ensure new testing regime
remains workable**

BRUSSELS – 19 July 2012 – Last week, the European Commission published its proposal for a new¹ Regulation on periodic roadworthiness tests, as part of a new roadworthiness package.

Leaseurope, the voice of the leasing and automotive rental industry at European level, welcomes the new proposal which incorporates the principle of mutual recognition of proof of testing. This will address the current lack of coherence in this area which complicates leasing and rental vehicle movements between Member States and poses an obstacle to the Single Market.

Leaseurope's Director General Tanguy van de Werve noted that *"With over 30% of of motor vehicles sold in 2011 across the European Union being financed by leasing and rental companies, Leaseurope's members attach great importance to the quality of national vehicle testing schemes, which can play a vital role in improving road safety while simultaneously mitigating the environmental footprint of vehicle fleets."*

Leaseurope also welcomes the Commission's acknowledgement of the impact of odometer fraud on road safety, which the current proposal aims to address by calling upon the Member States to regard manipulation or tampering of the odometer as an offense.

A number of elements of the proposal will require further clarification, especially in relation to the actual testing regime. It is of key importance that the new regime does not become unnecessarily burdensome and recognises national specificities where appropriate.

"Hence we call on the Members of the European Parliament and on the Council to maintain the general approach set out in the proposal, whilst ensuring the testing regime remains workable and easy to implement across the EU," added T. van de Werve.

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¹ Note to editor: repealing **Directive 2009/40/EC**

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About Leaseurope

As a Federation, Leaseurope brings together 44 associations throughout Europe representing either the leasing, long term and/or short term automotive rental industries. The scope of products covered by Leaseurope's members ranges from hire purchase and finance leases to operating leases of all asset types (automotive, equipment and real estate) and also includes the rental of cars, vans and trucks. It is estimated that Leaseurope represents approximately 91% of the European leasing market.

The Federation's mission is to represent the European leasing and automotive rental industry, ensuring the sector's voice is heard by European and international policy makers. Leaseurope also seeks to promote the leasing and automotive rental products and produces European level statistics describing the markets it represents. Visit www.leaseurope.org for more information.