



Secretary General

ECF-Hearing in Brussels

The European Caravan Federation addresses the interests of the Caravanning-Industry

Kriftel/Brüssel, 27. March 2003-03-27

For the first time since the establishment of the European Caravan Federation ECF, the umbrella organisation of the European Caravanning-Industry introduced their very special matters of concern to members of the European Parliament. On 26. March 2003 representatives of the European Parliament were presented general statistics about the leisure vehicles in Europe and background information about the industries concerns in regard to the current European Driving Licence Directive. Guido Carissimo, president of the ECF, stressed the role of Caravanning as part of the European Tourism Industry while Hans-Karl Sternberg, General Secretary of the ECF, explained why the European Driving Licence Directive should separate between commercially used light duty vehicles and privately used leisure accommodation vehicles using a similar chassis.

The ECF explained the need for driver-friendly driving licence regulations. It was proposed to extend the driving licence class B for privately used motor caravans to a total laden mass of 4,25 tons. For privately used car-trailer combinations it was proposed to extend the B licence to a combined total laden mass of 4,25 tons, as well.

The participants of the meeting did show great sympathy for the problems that were outlined and agreed that it should be possible to include extended allowances for privately used leisure vehicles in the driving licence directive. However, it is proposed to base an extended allowance on a proof of participation in a special training offered by a certified organisation.

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