

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001776/25
to the Commission
Flavio Tosi (PPE)
(2 May 2025)**

Subject: Protective equipment for motorcyclists and road safety

As of July 2025, airbags will be compulsory for learners wishing to obtain a category A motorcycle licence in Spain, a move designed to bring down the number of road deaths among motorcyclists, a group that is at particular risk of being involved in serious or lethal accidents.

Because fatality rates among users of powered two-wheeled motor vehicles have remained high (this group accounts for around 20% of all road deaths in the EU ⁽¹⁾), advanced personal protective equipment like airbags will be key to improving road safety.

Given that the EU has powers in the fields of vehicle safety and driving licences, and in the light of the recent revision of the CBE Directive ⁽²⁾:

1. Will the Commission push for the adoption of advanced protective equipment for motorcyclists (including airbags) by means of legislative initiatives and recommendations at the EU level?
2. Will it provide financial support for the adoption of these devices through European funds and road safety programmes?
3. How will the Commission promote and disseminate best practices for reducing vulnerable road user fatalities among the Member States?

Submitted: 2.5.2025

**Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas on behalf of the European Commission
(25 June 2025)**

The Commission shares the concern for the safety of riders of powered two-wheelers (PTW). This is a very vulnerable road user group, and the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, is promoting a range of initiatives to support PTW rider safety.

In response to the questions:

1. The Commission has no current plans for an EU proposal for the adoption of specific advanced protective equipment for PTWs, such as airbags.
2. There are no EU-level funding streams to give specific financial support to the purchase of this equipment.
3. The Commission promotes the safety of vulnerable road users through all available mechanisms, including the exchange of best practices through the High-Level Group on Road Safety ⁽¹⁾ and the biannual EU Road Safety Conferences; a specific focus on vulnerable road users, and PTW safety in particular, for Member States participating in the EU Road Safety Exchange ⁽²⁾; and highlighting successful initiatives to support PTW safety through the EU Road Safety Charter ⁽³⁾ and in the annual Excellence in Road Safety Awards ⁽⁴⁾.

One recent winner of an Excellence in Road Safety Award, an initiative on the use of road markings to promote safe PTW driving in bends, has resulted in a 60% reduction in road trauma, and has been implemented in other Member States.

The Commission would also emphasise that it recently adopted a proposal ⁽⁵⁾ to amend Directive 2014/45/EU ⁽⁶⁾ on periodic roadworthiness tests, where it proposed more stringent requirements by introducing mandatory inspections for motorcycles above 125 cm³.

¹ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/eu-road-fatalities-drop-3-2024-progress-remains-slow-2025-03-18_en?utm.

² Directive (EU) 2024/3237 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2024 amending Directive (EU) 2015/413 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences.

⁽¹⁾ https://road-safety.transport.ec.europa.eu/what-we-do/high-level-group-road-safety_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://etsc.eu/projects/eu-road-safety-exchange/>.

⁽³⁾ <https://road-safety-charter.ec.europa.eu/>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://road-safety-charter.ec.europa.eu/content/excellence-road-safety-awards?page=0>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM%3A2025%3A180%3AFIN>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2014/45/oj/eng>.

The Commission regularly collects the most recent research on topics related to the protection of vulnerable road users, PTW safety in particular, and makes it available to the public through the EU Road Safety Observatory ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽⁷⁾ https://road-safety.transport.ec.europa.eu/european-road-safety-observatory/data-and-analysis/thematic-reports_en.