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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
(27.3.2026)

The EU legislation on road infrastructure safety management, Directive 2008/96/EC¹, sets out the procedures applicable for road projects and for the built infrastructure. It applies to the design and management of roads on the trans-European road network, to motorways, to primary roads connecting major cities and regions and to EU funded interurban roads, but does not extend to decisions regarding winter driving conditions and local safety management, which remains a matter for the Member States.

It follows that the possible use of road salt falls within the remit of national and local authorities, which are best placed to tailor solutions to their specific road traffic conditions. The Commission is aware that different Member States adopt varying approaches. There are Member States that, like the Netherlands, detect ice and adjust salt spreading accordingly. Given the diverse winter conditions across the individual Member States, tailored actions are required.

¹ Directive 2008/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on road infrastructure safety management (OJ L 319, 29.11.2008, p. 59).