

EN

E-001725/2026

Answer given by Mr Micallef
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.8.2026)

The Commission considers cultural heritage to also encompass industrial and mobile heritage, together with the historic technical skills and crafts associated with it.

Relevant EU legislation takes account of the specific nature and limited use of such vehicles in several areas. For example, the CO₂ emission performance standards regulation for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles¹ only concerns new vehicles; it does not affect heritage vehicles. To preserve Europe's cultural heritage, vehicles of historical interest are also excluded from the scope of the Regulation on circularity requirements for vehicle design and on management of end-of-life vehicles² in line with the Commission proposal.

As regards roadworthiness testing for motor vehicles, Directive 2014/45/EU³ allows Member States to exclude vehicles of historical interest, registered in their territory, from its scope. Under that Directive, vehicles of historical interest means any vehicle that has been recognised as historical by the Member State of registration, or by one of its appointed authorising bodies, and which fulfils all the following conditions: it was manufactured or first registered at least 30 years ago, its specific type, as defined in the relevant EU or national law, is no longer in production, and it is historically preserved and maintained in its original state, without substantial changes to the technical characteristics of its main components. In its 2025 proposal to amend this Directive, the Commission did not propose any changes to these provisions.

Through Erasmus+⁴, the Commission supports the transfer of skills and crafts towards young generations. All types of vocational crafts are eligible under the programme's vocational education and training actions.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02019R0631-20231203>.

² <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6759-2026-INIT/en/pdf>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02014L0045-20140429>.

⁴ <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/>.