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Answer given by Mr Tzitzikostas
on behalf of the European Commission
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Directive 1999/37/EC¹ deals with vehicle registration documents for vehicles, while the vehicle registration itself remains a competence of Member States. Directive 1999/37/EC provides *inter alia* that a Member State must recognise the vehicle registration documents issued by another Member State for a vehicle, for the purposes of that vehicle's identification in international traffic or for its re-registration in another Member State. However, the way in which Member States regulate circulation on their roads, including the registration of such vehicles and the issuing of vehicle identification plates, is not harmonised by EU legislation and therefore falls within Member States authorities' remit.

With regard to insurance, Directive 2009/103/EC (the 'Motor Insurance Directive')² ensures that vehicles circulating within the Union are subject to third party liability insurance in the Member State where they are normally based, which applies throughout the EU, and that injured parties benefit from harmonised minimum amounts of cover, including through mechanisms for cross-border claims handling and compensation. However, matters relating to detection, investigation and sanctioning of insurance fraud, rest with the competent authorities of the Member States. Existing EU frameworks facilitate cooperation between competent national authorities, including police and judicial authorities, in tackling cross-border criminal or fraudulent activities.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/1999/37/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/103/oj/eng>.