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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.8.2026)

Regulation (EU) 2018/858 on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles¹ applies optionally to vehicles designed and constructed or adapted for use by civil protection, fire services and forces responsible for maintaining public order². Ambulances are defined as special purpose vehicles and specific requirements are provided for them in Annex II, Part III, Appendix 1 to this Regulation.

Ambulances are not exempted from the advanced safety systems mandated by the General Safety Regulation (EU) 2019/2144³ like advanced emergency braking, emergency lane-keeping, intelligent speed assistance and driver drowsiness and attention warning systems, as they can still benefit from the safety potential of the systems when driven outside the emergency-response regime. However, drivers remain in control of the vehicle at all times and can always override the systems that are meant to assist them. In addition, the legislation provides the possibility to switch off the systems at each trip.

The Commission is not aware of any specific issues with mandatory driver assistance systems fitted in ambulances during emergency-response driving. In 2027, the Commission will evaluate the safety systems mandated under the General Safety Regulation and will make a legislative proposal to amend the technical requirements, if needed.

¹ OJ L 151, 14.6.2018, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/858/oj>.

² Article 2(3) of the above Regulation.

³ OJ L 325, 16.12.2019, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/2144/oj>.