

Press Release

Brussels, 3 March 2023

Debate on end date for combustion engines not closed

While the European Parliament already approved to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the European Union as from 2035, it is now up to the European Council to give its final approval before its publication in the Official Journal.

The Council vote, initially foreseen on 7 March, has been postponed until 10 March. The main reason for its postponement lies in an uncertain qualified majority following the announcement of the Italian Government which will firmly oppose unless the EU Commission revises its position and propose environmentally and economically sustainable alternatives. The Italian negative vote announcement was soon followed by the German Government stating they would reject it unless the proposal on the use of e-fuels would be included in the proposal.

The Italian statement, sent to the representatives of the EU-27, states that however Italy is in favour of the electrification of light vehicles, they do not believe it should be the only way forward. Italy therefore cannot support the regulation as such as it does not comply with the principle of technological neutrality.

The European Council for Motor Trades and Repairs (CECRA) has since the beginning requested the need for a technology-mix that would embrace all relevant solutions to reduce CO2 emissions and had advocated from the start the Commission's proposal should include other technologies such as hydrogen and synthetic fuel technology (e-fuels).