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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
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Subject:	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive (EU) 2015/413 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences
	– Outcome of proceedings

Delegations can find annexed the text of the general approach on the above mentioned proposal endorsed by the Council “Transport, telecommunications and energy” (Transport) at its session of 4 December 2023.

Proposal for a

DIRECTIVE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL

amending Directive (EU) 2015/413 facilitating cross-border exchange of information and mutual assistance on road-safety-related traffic offences

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 91(1), point (c) and (d), thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee¹,

Having regard to the opinion of the Committee of the Regions²,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) Directive (EU) 2015/413 facilitates the cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences and thereby lowers the impunity of non-resident offenders. An effective cross-border investigation and enforcement of road-safety-related traffic offences improves road safety as it encourages non-resident drivers to commit fewer offences and drive more safely.

¹ OJ C , , p. .

² OJ C , , p. .

- (2) The practice of enforcement authorities involved in the investigation of road-safety-related traffic offences has shown that the current wording of Directive (EU) 2015/413 fails in facilitating an effective investigation of the road-safety-related traffic offences committed by non-resident drivers and in the enforcement of financial penalties to the desired degree. That results in a relative impunity of non-resident drivers and has a negative impact on road safety in the Union. Furthermore, procedural and fundamental rights of non-resident drivers are not always respected in the context of cross-border investigations, in particular due to a lack of transparency in the setting of the amount of the fines and in the appeal procedures. This Directive aims to further improve the effectiveness of the investigation of road-safety-related traffic offences committed with vehicles registered in another Member State in order to help reach the Union’s goal of reducing the death toll in all modes of transport to close to zero by 2050 and to strengthen the protection of fundamental and procedural rights of non-resident drivers.
- (3) In its EU Road Safety Policy Framework 2021-2030³, the Commission recommitted to the ambitious goal to get close to zero deaths and zero serious injuries on Union roads by 2050 (“Vision Zero”), and to the medium-term aim to reduce deaths and serious injuries by 50% by 2030, a target originally set in 2017 by the Union Transport Ministers in the Valletta Declaration on Road Safety. In order to achieve those goals the Commission, as part of the Communication “Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future”⁴, announced its intent to revise Directive (EU) 2015/413 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵.

³ SWD(2019) 283 final

⁴ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions ‘Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy – putting European transport on track for the future’, COM(2020) 789 final.

⁵ Directive (EU) 2015/413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences (OJ L 68, 13.3.2015, p. 9).

- (4) The scope of the Directive should be extended to other road-safety-related traffic offences to ensure equal treatment of drivers. Considering the legal basis on which Directive (EU) 2015/413 was adopted, namely Article 91(1), point (c), of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, additional offences should demonstrate a strong link to road safety, by addressing dangerous and reckless behaviours which pose a serious risk to road users. The extension of the scope should also reflect the technical progress in the automatic detection of road-safety-related traffic offences. While not respecting the rules on vehicle access restrictions not only relates to road safety, but also to traffic management or pollution prevention, it should also be part of the scope as Member States experience similar challenges in enforcing these rules on non-residents. Because of adding the rules on vehicle access restrictions, it would be appropriate to extend the legal basis with Article 91(1), point (d), while taking into account that according to Article 11 of the TFEU environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the implementation of the Union's policies.
- (5) Road-safety-related traffic offences are classified either as administrative or criminal offences under the national law of the Member States, which may give rise to proceedings brought by administrative or judicial authorities, before courts having jurisdiction in administrative or criminal matters, depending on the applicable national procedures. Nevertheless, these offences are pursued by Member States in the course of mass procedures in most cases, and as such where the precise identification of the driver is required by the national legislation of the Member State of the offence as a precondition for imposing the relevant sanction, the requirements to use Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶ set out of Article 6 of that Directive, are in most cases, particularly where the offences are qualified as administrative, not met and thus that Directive cannot be used. In that context the authorities of the Member State of the offence should have a practicable procedure at their disposal to request mutual assistance from the relevant authorities of the Member State of registration or Member State of residence through well-defined measures, which do not seriously affect the rights of the concerned persons, in order to be able to identify offenders to the degree their national legislation requires. However, this should be without prejudice to situations where in individual cases the conditions for applying Directive 2014/41/EU are deemed to have been fulfilled, in which case the

⁶ Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters (OJ L 130, 1.5.2014, p. 1).

procedures contained therein should be applied by those Member States bound by Directive 2014/41/EU.

It should be recalled that a specific Union legal framework regulates judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which is based on the principle of mutual recognition of judgments and judicial decisions. It is therefore necessary that the application of this Directive does not undermine the rights and obligations of the Member States stemming from other applicable Union legislation in criminal matters, and in particular those laid down in Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA⁷, Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸ as concerns the procedures for exchanges of evidence, and the procedures for service of documents laid down in Article 5 of the Convention established by the Council in accordance with Article 34 of the Treaty on European Union, on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union⁹. Further, criminal proceedings demanding specific guarantees for the individuals concerned, the procedural safeguards for suspects and accused persons, enshrined in Directives 2010/64/EU¹⁰, 2012/13/EU¹¹, 2013/48/EU¹², (EU) 2016/343¹³, (EU) 2016/800¹⁴ and (EU)

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- ⁷ Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA of 24 February 2005 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties (OJ L 76, 22.3.2005, p. 16).
- ⁸ Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters (OJ L 130, 1.5.2014, p. 1).
- ⁹ OJ C 197, 12.7.2000, p. 3.
- ¹⁰ Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings (OJ L 280, 26.10.2010, p. 1).
- ¹¹ Directive 2012/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 on the right to information in criminal proceedings (OJ L 142, 1.6.2012, p. 1).
- ¹² Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty (OJ L 294, 6.11.2013, p. 1).
- ¹³ Directive (EU) 2016/343 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings (OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p. 1).
- ¹⁴ Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 1).

2016/1919 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁵, should also not be affected by the implementation of this Directive.

- (6) The responsibilities and competences of national contact points should be defined to ensure that they seamlessly cooperate with all authorities involved in the investigation of the road-safety-related traffic offences which fall within the scope of this Directive. National contact points should always be available for such competent authorities and answer their requests within reasonable time. This should be the case regardless of the nature of the offence or the legal status of the competent authority, and in particular regardless of whether the competent authority has national or subnational or local competence.
- (7) The basics of the system of cross-border exchange of information established by Directive (EU) 2015/413 have proved to be effective. However, further improvements and adjustments are necessary to remedy issues resulting from lacking, erroneous or inaccurate data. Therefore, further obligations should be imposed on Member States regarding the need to keep certain data in the relevant databases available and up-to-date to increase the effectiveness of the information exchange.
- (8) The national contact point of the Member State of the offence should ~~also~~ be allowed to conduct automated searches in vehicle registers to retrieve data on end users of vehicles where such information is already available. Furthermore, a data retention period should be established as regards the identity of the previous owners, holders and end users of the vehicles to provide authorities with the appropriate information they need for the investigation.

¹⁵ Directive (EU) 2016/1919 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings, (OJ L 297, 4.11.2016, p. 1).

- (9) The request to disclose vehicle registration data and the exchange of the data elements in cross-border cases should be carried out through a single electronic system. Therefore, also building on the already existing technical framework, the automated searching of vehicle registration data under Directive (EU) 2015/413 should only be carried out through the use of the highly secured European Vehicle and Driving Licence Information System (Eucaris) software application, and amended versions of that software. This software application should allow for the expeditious, cost-efficient, secure and reliable exchange of specific vehicle registration data between Member States, and therefore increase the efficiency of the investigation. Member States should not exchange information by other means, which would be less cost-efficient and may not ensure the protection of the transmitted data. Member States should use Eucaris specifically for automated searches of vehicle registration data and mutual assistance in identifying the concerned person, mutual assistance in the service of the traffic offence notice and follow-up documents.
- (10) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of the provisions on the searches to be conducted by Member States, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission. However, transitional measures for the automated exchange of vehicle registration data based on the existing electronic system should be in place to guarantee seamless data exchanges until such rules become applicable.
- (11) In cases where the concerned person cannot be identified with the certainty required by the legislation of the Member State of the offence based on the information acquired from the vehicle register, Member States should cooperate in order to ascertain the identity of the concerned person. To that end, a mutual assistance procedure should be introduced aimed at identifying the concerned person, either through a request for confirmation, on the basis of information already held by the competent authority of the Member State of the offence, or through a request for a targeted enquiry to be conducted by the relevant competent authorities of the Member State of registration or of the Member State of residence.

- (12) The competent authorities of the Member States should use a standard electronic form for the request and response in order to provide the additional information requested by the competent authority of the Member State of the offence necessary for the identification of the concerned person and provide the requested information within reasonable time. If it is not possible to gather or provide the information, the competent authority of the Member State of the offence should be informed without undue delay. Member States should use their national contact points in order to allow for a highly secure and efficient transfer of both the outgoing request for mutual assistance and the incoming response to it.
- (13) The grounds on which the provision of mutual assistance for the identification of the concerned person can be refused by the competent authority of the Member State of registration or Member State of residence should be specifically identified. In particular, safeguards should be introduced to avoid revealing the identity of protected persons, such as protected witnesses, through those procedures.
- (14) Member States should be allowed to use national procedures to identify the concerned person as they would apply in case the road-safety-related offence had been committed by a resident person. Legal certainty should be reinforced as regards the applicability of specific measures taken under such procedures, namely concerning documents requiring the confirmation or denial of the commission of the offence or imposing obligations for concerned persons to cooperate in identifying the concerned person. As those measures should have the same legal effects on the concerned persons as in domestic cases, those persons should also enjoy the same standards of fundamental and procedural rights.
- (15) Where Union legislation or national law of Member States explicitly provides access to or the possibility to exchange information from other national or Union databases for the purposes of Directive (EU) 2015/413, Member States should have the possibility to exchange information by involving such databases, while respecting the fundamental rights of non-resident drivers.

- (16) The concerned person might not be familiar with the legal system of the Member State of the offence nor speak its official language or languages, and therefore their procedural and fundamental rights should be better safeguarded. In order to achieve that objective, mandatory minimum requirements for the content of the traffic offence notice should be established and the current model for an information letter with only basic information, as set out Annex II to Directive (EU) 2015/413 should no longer be used.
- (17) As a minimum, the traffic offence notice should include detailed information on the legal classification and legal consequences of the offence, in particular as the sanctions for the offences covered by the scope of Directive (EU) 2015/413 can be of a non-pecuniary nature, such as restrictions placed on the offender's right to drive. The right of appeal should also be supported by providing detailed information on where and how to exercise the rights of defence or lodge an appeal in the Member State of the offence. A description of *in absentia* procedures should also be provided when applicable, as the concerned person may not plan to return to the Member State of offence to participate in the proceedings. Payment options and ways to mitigate the volume of the sanctions should also be made easily understandable in order to incentivise voluntary cooperation. Finally, as the traffic offence notice should be the first document the concerned person receives, it should contain the information under Article 13 of Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁶, which, pursuant to Article 13(2)(d) should include information from which source the personal data originate, and Articles 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁷. This information should be provided in the traffic offence notice either directly or by way of reference to the place where it is made available.

¹⁶ Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA, (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 89).

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), (OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1).

- (18) When non-resident persons are checked on the spot in a road control, and such action leads to the initiation of follow-up proceedings in relation to the commission of a road-safety-related traffic offence the traffic offence notice should be sent to the non-resident driver. In the cases of on the spot checks in relation to a commission of a road-safety related traffic offence and where the competent authority has enforced the sanction related to the committed offence on the spot by making the driver pay the fine on the spot, the driver should only be provided with certain essential elements, on the spot.
- (19) In order to ensure that the concerned person is the one that actually receives the traffic offence notice and any follow-up documents, and to avoid the erroneous involvement of non-concerned third parties, rules on service of documents should be laid down.
- (20) In the case where it is not possible to deliver documents through post, registered delivery or electronic means of equal value, the competent authority of the Member State of the offence should be allowed to rely on the competent authority of the Member State of registration or of residence to service the documents and communications to the concerned person under their own national legislation governing the service of documents. Member States should use their national contact points in order to allow for a secure and efficient transfer of both the outgoing request to deliver procedural documents and the incoming response to it.
- (21) Both the traffic offence notice and any follow-up documents should be sent in the language of the registration document of the vehicle. In those cases where a traffic offence notice and other follow-up communications are being sent out in a language the recipient does not understand, the concerned person should be allowed to ask to receive the follow-up documents in a different official EU language of choice other than the language of the registration document of the vehicle.
- (23) Effective legal review should be provided in case the competent authorities of the Member State of the offence do not comply with the language standards and rules on the service of documents and their respective national laws.
- (24a) As Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA is not tailored to mass processing of road-safety-related traffic offences for which small pecuniary sanctions are often qualified as administrative and in order to ensure equal treatment of resident and non-resident drivers, specific provisions in this Directive should be established to provide mutual assistance to enforce administrative decisions on road traffic fines across borders.

- (24b) If the competent authority of the Member State of the offence cannot transmit a road traffic fine under the Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA, Member States should have the possibility under this Directive to enforce road traffic fines across borders in order to ensure equal treatment of resident and non-resident drivers.
- (25) The scope of the information that Member States report to the Commission should be extended to include elements closely related to the objective of improving road safety, in order to enable the Commission to better analyse the state of play in the Member States and to propose initiatives on a sound factual basis. To offset the additional administrative burden on Member States authorities and to align reporting with the Commission's evaluation calendar the reporting period should be extended. A transitional period should be granted so that the ongoing two-year reporting period may end seamlessly.
- (26) As data relating to the identification of an offender constitutes personal data within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive (EU) 2016/680, and the Union legal framework on handling personal data has been amended significantly since the adoption of Directive (EU) 2015/413, the provisions on the processing of personal data should be aligned with the new legal framework.
- (27) Pursuant to Article 62(6) of Directive (EU) 2016/680, the Commission is to review other acts of Union law which regulate processing of personal data by the competent authorities for the purposes set out in Article 1(1) of that Directive, in order to assess the need to align those acts with that Directive and to make, where appropriate, the necessary proposals to amend these acts to ensure a consistent approach to the protection of personal data within the scope of that Directive. That review¹⁸ has led to the identification of Directive (EU) 2015/413 as one of those other acts to be amended. It should therefore be clarified that processing of personal data should also comply with Directive (EU) 2016/680, where the processing falls within its material and personal scope.

¹⁸ COM(2020) 262 final

- (28) Any processing of personal data under Directive (EU) 2015/413 should comply with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, Directive (EU) 2016/680 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1725¹⁹ within their respective scope of application.
- (29) The legal basis for the processing activities necessary to establish the identity of the concerned person and deliver the traffic offence notice and the follow-up documents to the concerned persons, is laid down in Directive (EU) 2015/413, in line with Article 6(1)(e) and, where applicable, Article 10 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Article 8 of Directive 2016/680. In line with same rules, this Directive lays down the legal basis for the Member States' obligation to process personal data for the purpose of providing mutual assistance to each other in identifying the concerned persons for the road-safety-related traffic offences listed in this Directive.
- (30) In some Member States, the personal data of non-residents are stored in a network of servers ("cloud"). Without prejudice to the rules on personal data breach laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Directive (EU) 2016/680, and on personal data breach and security incidents laid down in Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁰, Member States should ensure that they inform each other on cybersecurity incidents related to those data, where it is relevant for the purposes of this Directive, in particular if it involves data that is processed about or in relation to a concerned person in relation to a road-safety-related traffic offence.

¹⁹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

²⁰ Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS 2 Directive), (OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 80).

- (31) An online portal (the “CBE Portal”) should be established to provide road users in the Union with comprehensive information on road-safety-related traffic rules in place in Member States. This information should cover the applicable rules, the appeal options for the concerned person, the road traffic fines that are applied to the concerned person when committing a traffic offence, where applicable the applied non-financial repercussions and the schemes and available means for the payment of the road traffic fines. Non-financial repercussions refer to penalty points systems or the fact that when committing a specific traffic offence, this can lead to the disqualification to drive by a temporary or permanent withdrawal of the driving licence of the concerned person. The Commission should be the controller of the CBE Portal, in accordance with Regulation 2018/1725.
- (32) The Commission should provide proportionate financial support to initiatives which improve the cross-border cooperation in the enforcement of road-safety-related traffic rules in the Union.
- (33) In order to take into account relevant technical progress or changes to relevant legal acts of the Union, the power to adopt acts in accordance with Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union should be delegated to the Commission in order to update the Annex to this Directive by amending it. It is of particular importance that the Commission carry out appropriate consultations during its preparatory work, including at expert level, and that those consultations be conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016²¹. In particular, to ensure equal participation in the preparation of delegated acts, the European Parliament and the Council receive all documents at the same time as Member States' experts, and their experts systematically have access to meetings of Commission expert groups dealing with the preparation of delegated acts.

²¹ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

- (34) In order to ensure uniform conditions for the implementation of Directive (EU) 2015/413, implementing powers should be conferred on the Commission to specify the procedures and technical specifications, including cybersecurity measures, for the automated searches to be conducted in relation to the investigation of the road-safety-related traffic offences, the content of the standard electronic form for the request and the means of transmission of the information relating to the request for mutual assistance in identifying the concerned person, the content of electronic forms for the request for mutual assistance for the service of the traffic offence notice and of the follow-up documents and the use and maintenance of the CBE Portal. The technical solutions should be aligned with the European Interoperability Framework and the relevant Interoperable Europe solutions referred to in the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down measures for a high level of public sector interoperability across the Union (Interoperable Europe Act)²². The implementing powers should be exercised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council²³.
- (35) Directive (EU) 2015/413 should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (36) Since the objectives of this Directive, namely to ensure a high level of protection for all road users in the Union and equal treatment of drivers by streamlining mutual assistance procedures between Member States in the cross-border investigation of road-safety-related traffic offences and by strengthening the protection of fundamental rights of non-residents where the offences are committed with a vehicle registered in a Member State other than the Member State in which the offence took place, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States but can rather, by reason of the scale and effects of this Directive, be better achieved at Union level, the Union may adopt measures, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the Treaty on European Union. In accordance with the principle of proportionality as set out in that Article, this Directive does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.

²² COM(2022) 720 final

²³ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission's exercise of implementing powers, (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

- (37) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 42(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁴ and delivered an opinion on [DD/MM/YYYY].

HAVE ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Directive (EU) 2015/413 is amended as follows:

- (0) Article 1 is replaced by the following:

‘This Directive aims to ensure a high level of protection for all road users in the Union by facilitating the cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences and by facilitating the enforcement of sanctions, where those offences are committed with a vehicle registered in a Member State other than the Member State in which the offence took place.’

- (1) Article 2 is amended as follows:

- (a) in the first paragraph, the following points are added:

- ‘(i) not keeping sufficient distance from the vehicle in front;
- (j) dangerous overtaking;
- (k) dangerous parking;
- (l) crossing one or more solid lines;

²⁴ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC, (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

- (m) wrong-way driving;
 - (n) not respecting the rules on the creation and use of emergency corridors or giving way to emergency service vehicles;
 - (o) use of an overloaded vehicle;
 - (p) not respecting the rules on vehicle-access-restrictions;
 - (q) hit-and-run;
 - (r) not respecting the rules at a railway level-crossing’;
- (b) the following paragraph is added:
- ‘This Directive shall not affect the rights and obligations stemming from the following provisions of Union legal acts:
- (a) Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA²⁵;
 - (b) Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council²⁶;
 - (c) the procedures for service of documents laid down in Article 5 of the Convention established by the Council in accordance with Article 34 of the Treaty on European Union, on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Member States of the European Union²⁷;

²⁵ Council Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA of 24 February 2005 on the application of the principle of mutual recognition to financial penalties (OJ L 76, 22.3.2005, p. 16).

²⁶ Directive 2014/41/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 April 2014 regarding the European Investigation Order in criminal matters (OJ L 130, 1.5.2014, p. 1).

²⁷ OJ C 197, 12.7.2000, p.3.

- (d) the provisions concerning the rights of suspects and accused persons laid down in Directives 2010/64/EU²⁸, 2012/13/EU²⁹, 2013/48/EU³⁰, (EU) 2016/343³¹, (EU) 2016/800³² and (EU) 2016/1919 of the European Parliament and of the Council³³.

(2) Article 3 is amended as follows:

(a) point (a), (j) and (l) are replaced by the following:

- ‘(a) ‘vehicle’ means any vehicle subject to registration according to the law of the Member State of registration or Member State of offence, vehicle combination or its trailer, which is normally used for carrying persons or goods by road;
- (j) ‘use of a forbidden lane’ means illegally using part of an already existing permanent or temporary road section, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence;

²⁸ Directive 2010/64/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings (OJ L 280, 26.10.2010, p.1).

²⁹ Directive 2012/13/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 on the right to information in criminal proceedings (OJ L 142, 1.6.2012, p.1).

³⁰ Directive 2013/48/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty (OJ L 294, 6.11.2013, p.1).

³¹ Directive (EU) 2016/343 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings (OJ L 65, 11.3.2016, p.1).

³² Directive (EU) 2016/800 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p.1).

³³ Directive (EU) 2016/1919 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings (OJ L 297, 4.11.2016, p.1).

- (l) ‘national contact point’ means the authorities designated for the purposes of the incoming and outgoing automated exchange of vehicle registration data in accordance with Article 4, the incoming and outgoing requests for mutual assistance to identify the concerned person in accordance with Article 4a, the incoming and outgoing requests for mutual assistance to send the traffic offence notice or the follow-up documents to the concerned person in accordance with Article 5a1 and the incoming and outgoing requests and responses for mutual assistance in enforcement of final administrative decisions on road traffic fines imposed for road-safety-related traffic offences in accordance with Article 8b.’;
- (c) the following points (o) to (zd) are added:
- ‘(o) ‘not keeping sufficient distance from the vehicle in front’ means not maintaining the safe distance to the vehicle in front, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence;
- (p) ‘dangerous overtaking’ means overtaking another vehicle or another road user in a way that infringes the applicable rules on overtaking, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence;
- (q) ‘dangerous parking’ means parking or stopping the vehicle in a way that infringes the applicable rules on parking or stopping in a dangerous way, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence. Failure to pay parking fees shall not be considered dangerous parking;
- (r) ‘crossing one or more solid lines’ means changing lanes with the vehicle through unlawfully crossing at least one solid line, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence;
- (s) ‘wrong-way driving’ means driving a vehicle against the designated direction of traffic, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence;

- (t) ‘not respecting the rules on the creation and use of emergency corridors or giving way to emergency service vehicles’ means non-compliance with the rules to enable emergency service vehicles, such as police vehicles, rescue vehicles or fire trucks, to pass through and arrive to the site of emergency, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence;
- (u) ‘use of an overloaded vehicle’ means using a vehicle that does not comply with the requirements set for its maximum authorized weights or maximum authorised axle weights, as laid down in the national laws, regulations or administrative provisions transposing Council Directive 96/53/EC³⁴, or in the law of the Member State of the offence for vehicles or operations for which there are no such requirements set in that Directive;
- (v) ‘traffic offence notice’ means the first communication issued by the competent authority of the Member State of the offence to the concerned person and which contains at least the information referred to in Article 5(2);
- (w) ‘follow-up documents’ means any decision or any other documents that the competent authority of the Member State of the offence issues after the traffic offence notice in connection to that notice or to the road-safety-related-traffic offence in question, until the stage of appeal before a competent court;
- (x) ‘concerned person’ means the person who is identified as personally liable for a road-safety-related-traffic offence listed in Article 2(1) in accordance with the national law of the Member State of the offence or the owner, holder, end user or the driver of the vehicle with which a road-safety-related traffic offence listed in Article 2(1) was committed, regardless of not being identified as personally liable in accordance with the national law of the Member State of the offence;

³⁴ Council Directive 96/53/EC of 25 July 1996 laying down for certain road vehicles circulating within the Community the maximum authorized dimensions in national and international traffic and the maximum authorized weights in international traffic (OJ L 235, 17.9.1996, p. 59).

- (y) ‘end user’ means any natural person who is not the owner or the holder of the vehicle with which a road-safety-related traffic offence listed in Article 2(1) was committed, but who was lawfully using that vehicle, in particular under a long-term lease or rental contract or as part of a vehicle fleet available to employees;
- (z) ‘Member State of residence’ means any Member State that can be assumed to a reasonable degree of certainty to be the place of normal residence of the concerned person;
- (za) ‘not respecting the rules on vehicle-access-restrictions’ means not respecting the rules on vehicle-access-restrictions or making use of the infrastructure that is part of the territory of a Member State, as delimited by the competent authority of that Member State for the purpose of ensuring road safety, managing traffic or preventing pollution. Conducts falling under this definition shall not be covered by the Directive, in the following cases:
 - (i) information on the boundaries of restrictions, prohibitions or obligations with zonal validity, current access status and conditions for circulation in vehicle-access-restricted zones as well as data on permanent vehicle-access-restrictions was not created and made accessible via the national access point in accordance with Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/670³⁵;
 - (ii) not respecting the rules related to charges and other fees that are to be paid before entering an area subject to vehicle-access-restrictions;
- (zb) ‘hit-and-run’ means a situation in which the offender drives away after causing an accident or traffic collision in order to avoid facing the consequences of the accident or traffic collision, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence;

³⁵ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/670 of 2 February 2022 supplementing Directive 2010/40/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to the provision of EU-wide real-time traffic information services (OJ L 122, 25.4.2022, p. 1).

(zc) ‘not respecting the rules at a railway level-crossing’ means not stopping or acting in a dangerous way at a railway level-crossing, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence;

(zd) ‘competent authority’ means the authority responsible for registration of vehicles or drivers, for starting the follow-up proceedings or investigating the road-safety-related traffic offences listed in Article 2(1) or enforcing relevant sanctions, in accordance with the national legislation of Member States;

(3) the following Article is inserted:

‘Article 3a

National contact points

1. Each Member State shall designate one or more national contact points for:

- (a) automated exchange of vehicle registration data in accordance with Article 4;
- (b) the incoming and outgoing requests and responses for mutual assistance to identify the concerned person in accordance with Article 4a;
- (c) the incoming and outgoing requests and responses for mutual assistance to service the traffic offence notice or the follow-up documents to the concerned person in accordance with Article 5a1 and
- (d) the incoming and outgoing requests and responses for mutual assistance in enforcement of final administrative decisions on road traffic fines imposed for road-safety-related traffic offences in accordance with Article 8b.

The powers of the national contact points shall be governed by the applicable law of the Member State concerned.

2. Member States shall ensure that their respective national contact points cooperate with each other in order to ensure that all necessary information is shared in due time.’;

- (4) Article 4 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 4

**Procedures for the exchange of vehicle registration data and mutual assistance
between Member States**

1. For the investigation of the road-safety-related-traffic offences listed in Article 2(1) that were detected on the territory of the Member State of the offence, the Member State of registration shall grant the national contact points of the Member State of offence access to the following national vehicle registration data, with the power to conduct automated searches thereon:

- (a) data relating to vehicles;
- (b) data relating to holders and, where available, owners and end users of the vehicles.

The data elements referred to in the first subparagraph, points (a) and (b), which are necessary to conduct a search shall be those set out in the Annex.

When conducting a search in the form of an outgoing request, the competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall use a full registration number. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall also ensure that each outgoing request includes the name of the competent authority making the request, the username of the person handling the request and the case number of the request.

1-a. The Member State of the offence shall use the data obtained in the investigation of the road-safety-related traffic offences listed in Article 2(1) in order to establish who is personally liable for these road-safety-related traffic offences as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence.

1a. In order to establish in the case of the traffic offences listed in Article 2(1), where appropriate, if a relevant traffic offence has been committed with a vehicle, the competent authority may first request access, via its national contact point, only to vehicle technical data contained in Section 2, Part I of the Annex. When it is established that an offence is committed, the competent authority may subsequently request access, via its national contact point, to the personal data related to the concerned person contained in Section 2, Parts II, III, IV and V of the Annex.

4. The national contact point of the Member State of registration shall ensure that at least in the following cases a specific message is returned, informing that at the time of the offence:

- (d) the vehicle is recorded as stolen in any national register;
- (e) the vehicle registration plate is recorded as stolen in any national register;
- (f) no information of a registered vehicle is found in the national vehicle register;
- (g) the search input is detected as not correct, based on some national syntax requirements;
- (h) the information cannot be disclosed in the case that the requested information would reveal the identity of a person protected in accordance with the national law of the Member State of registration.

10. The national contact point of the Member State of registration shall ensure that no other personal data elements are shared than those related to the committed offence.

11. The Member State of the offence shall ensure that only its competent authorities have access to the vehicle registration data exchange, via its national contact points.

12. For the mutual assistance in accordance with Articles 4a, 5a1 or 8b, the competent authorities of the Member States shall ensure that every request for mutual assistance includes the name of the competent authority making the request, the username of the person handling the request and the case number of the request.’;

- (5) the following Articles are inserted:

‘Article 4-a

National Vehicle Registers

1. Member States shall ensure that the data elements listed in Section 2, Parts I, II and IV of the Annex, when available in their national vehicle registers are up-to-date.
2. Member States shall, for the purposes of this Directive, retain the data elements referred to in Section 2, Part IV and V of the Annex, when available, in the national vehicle registry for at least 12 months after any modification of the owner, holder or end-user of the vehicle in question.

Article 4-a1

Technical specifications for the exchange of vehicle registration data and mutual assistance

1. Member States shall use a specifically designed and highly secured software application of the European Vehicle and Driving Licence Information System (Eucaris), and amended versions of this software to exchange the information or process the mutual assistance, in accordance with Article 3a(1).

Member States shall ensure that the processing of data in accordance with paragraph 1 is secure, cost-efficient, expeditious and reliable, and carried out by interoperable means within a decentralized structure.

2. The Commission shall adopt at the latest one year after the entry into force of this Directive, implementing acts to establish the procedures, content and technical software specifications, including cybersecurity measures for the electronically structured requests and responses for:

- (a) the request and the information provided in response to the request to exchange the information in accordance with Article 3a(1)(a) and

- (b) the means of transmission of the information for the processing of the mutual assistance, in accordance with Article 3a(1)(a), (b) and (c) and Article 8b.

The software specifications shall provide for both online asynchronous exchange mode and asynchronous batch exchange mode, as well as for transmission of the data elements in encrypted form.

In establishing the implementing acts, the Commission shall take into account the following elements:

- (i) the competent authorities shall have the possibility to identify direct and indirect access when the request does not come from a known member of the platform;
- (ii) the Member State of registration shall have the possibility to ask the details of the offence prior to the transmission of the registration data to the Member State of the offence, and to grant the possibility to refuse the transmission of registration data if the first demand for details is not answered by that Member State within one week;
- (iii) the competent authorities shall have the possibility to consult the requests in order to guarantee that they are duly justified and comply with the requirements of this Directive;
- (iv) a journal of consultations leading to automatic alerts to the members in case of abnormal consultation peaks and
- (v) establish processes to enable Member States to take appropriate measures in response to these alerts and to abnormal requests, in order to mitigate the risks for the data, as well as to organize the cooperation between Member States on risk monitoring, management and mitigation, in particular for not sending data in response to abnormal requests as a derogation to article 4 paragraph 1.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 10a(2).

3. Until the implementing acts referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article have become applicable, the searches referred to in Article 3a(1)(a) shall be conducted in compliance with the procedures described in Chapter 3, points 2 and 3, of the Annex to Decision 2008/616/JHA³⁶, applied jointly with the Annex to this Directive.

4. Each Member State shall bear its own costs arising from the administration, use, maintenance and updates of the software application and its amended versions.

Article 4a

Mutual assistance in identifying the concerned person

1. Member States shall provide mutual assistance to each other where the competent authorities of the Member State of the offence, after exhausting all other means available to them, in particular once they have:

- (a) conducted a automated search in accordance with Article 4(1) and
- (b) consulted other databases explicitly allowed to in accordance with Union and national legislation,

and still cannot identify the concerned person to the necessary degree of certainty required by its national legislation to initiate or conduct the follow-up proceedings referred to in Article 5(1).

1a. Member States shall apply mutual assistance under this Article, however, if after the assessment of the circumstances of individual cases the conditions laid down in Article 6 of Directive 2014/41/EU are fulfilled, the Member States bound by Directive 2014/41/EU may only apply Directive 2014/41/EU between them.

³⁶ Council Decision 2008/616/JHA of 23 June 2008 on the implementation of Decision 2008/615/JHA on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism and cross-border crime (OJ L 210, 6.8.2008, p. 12).

2. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall decide whether to request mutual assistance to obtain additional information referred to in paragraph 3, second subparagraph. The request may be initiated only by a competent authority, in accordance with the national law of that Member State. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall use the data obtained in order to establish who is the personally liable for the road traffic offences listed in Article 2(1) of this Directive, which were committed on the territory of the Member State of the offence.

3. When the competent authority of the Member State of the offence has decided to request mutual assistance in accordance with paragraph 1, it shall via its national contact point send an electronically structured request to the national contact point of the Member State of registration or Member State of residence.

The competent authority of the Member State of registration or Member State of residence may be requested:

- (b) to ask the owner, holder or end user of the vehicle to provide information on the identity and address of the liable person, in accordance with its national procedures applicable as if the investigative measure concerned had been ordered by its own authorities.
- (c) to establish the identity and address of the concerned person, in accordance with its national law, including by using other national databases such as driving licence registers or population registers.

4. Where the competent authority of the Member State of registration or the Member State of residence receives a request referred to in paragraph 3, it shall gather the requested information, unless it decides to invoke one of the grounds for refusal listed in paragraph 7 or it is not possible to gather the requested information.

The competent authority of the Member State of registration and the Member State of residence shall comply with the formalities and procedures expressly requested by the competent authority of the Member State of the offence, when gathering the additional information, to the extent that they are not incompatible with their national legislation.

5. The competent authority of the Member State of registration or the Member State of residence shall ensure that it provides the requested information without any undue delay from the receipt of the request. The requested information shall be transmitted electronically via the national contact points of the Member States.

Where it is not possible to gather the information, the competent authority of the Member State of registration or the Member State of residence shall inform the competent authority of the Member State of the offence via its national contact point as soon as possible.

7. The competent authority of the Member State of registration or the Member State of residence may refuse to provide the additional information requested in accordance with paragraph 3. They shall do so only in the following cases:

- (a) there is an immunity or a privilege under the law of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of residence, which makes it impossible to provide the information;
- (b) providing the requested information would be contrary to the principle of *ne bis in idem* or would jeopardise an ongoing investigation of a criminal offence;
- (c) providing the requested information would be contrary to or would harm the essential interests of the national security of the requested Member State, jeopardise the source of the information or involve the use of classified information relating to specific intelligence activities;
- (d) there are substantial grounds to believe that providing the requested information would be incompatible with the Member State of registration's or with the Member State of residence's obligations in accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;
- (e) providing the requested information would jeopardise the safety of an individual or reveal the identity of a person protected in accordance with the national law of the Member State of registration or the Member State of residence.

When the competent authority of the Member State of registration or Member State of residence decides to apply a ground for refusal, it shall inform the Member State of the offence thereof via its national contact point, without any undue delay. The competent authority of the Member State of registration or Member State of residence may decide not to specify which ground of refusal it applies in the cases referred to in points (b), (c) and (e).

11. The electronically structured request shall include the following information:

- (b) data elements relating to the concerned person obtained as a result of the automated search conducted in accordance with Article 4(1);
- (c) if available, the visual recording of the driver retrieved from detection equipment, in particular speed cameras;
- (d) data relating to the road traffic offence, listed in Article 2(1);
- (e) data relating to the involved vehicle;
- (f) a reason for the request of mutual assistance.

Article 4b

National measures facilitating the identification of the liable person

1. Member States may take any measures in relation to the road safety-related traffic offences listed in Article 2(1) under their national legislation, in order to successfully identify the concerned person, such as measures related to the obligation of the holder, owner or end user to cooperate in the identification of the liable person, provided that fundamental and procedural rights under Union and national law are respected.

2. In accordance with paragraph 1, the competent authorities may, in particular:

- (a) serve documents to concerned persons in relation to road-safety-related traffic offences listed in Article 2(1), including documents asking these concerned persons to confirm their liability for the road-safety-related traffic offences;
- (b) apply obligations, including related sanctions, placed on concerned persons which are relevant to the identification of the liable person, to the furthest possible extent.

- (6) Article 5 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 5

Traffic offence notice on the road-safety-related-traffic offences

1. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall decide whether or not to initiate follow-up proceedings in relation to the road-safety-related-traffic offences listed in Article 2(1).

Where the competent authority of the Member State of the offence decides to initiate such proceedings, that competent authority shall inform the concerned person about the road-safety-related-traffic offence and, where appropriate, of the decision to initiate follow-up proceedings by a traffic offence notice.

The traffic offence notice may serve other purposes than those set out in the second subparagraph, needed for enforcement, such as a request for the disclosure of the identity and address of the liable person, an inquiry whether the concerned person admits or denies the commission of the offence or a request for payment.

2. The traffic offence notice shall contain at least:

- (a) the indication that the traffic offence notice is issued for the purposes of this Directive;
- (b) the name, postal address telephone number and e-mail address of the competent authority of the Member State of the offence;
- (c) all relevant information concerning the road-safety-related-traffic offence, in particular data on the vehicle with which the offence was committed, including the vehicle registration number, the place, date and time of the offence, the nature of the offence, detailed reference to the legal provisions infringed and, where appropriate, data concerning the device used for detecting the offence;

- (d) detailed information on the legal classification of the road-safety-related-traffic offence, the applicable sanctions and other legal consequences of the road-safety-related traffic offence, including information related to driving disqualifications (including penalty points or other restrictions imposed on the right to drive), in accordance with the national law of the Member State of the offence;
- (e) detailed information on where and how to exercise the rights of defence or to appeal the decision to pursue the road-safety-related-traffic offence, including the requirements for the admissibility of such an appeal and the time limit for lodging the appeal, and on whether and under what conditions *in absentia* procedures apply, in accordance with the national law of the Member State of the offence;
- (f) where applicable, information on measures taken to identify the concerned person in accordance with Article 4b and the consequences of non-cooperation;
- (g) where applicable, detailed information on the name, address and International Bank Account Number (IBAN) of the authority where an imposed financial penalty can be settled, on the deadline for the payment and on alternative payment methods, in particular specific software applications, as long as those methods are accessible to both residents and non-residents;
- (h) information on the applicable data protection rules, the rights of the data subjects and the availability of further information or reference to the place where this information may be easily retrieved pursuant to Article 13 of Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council, including information from which source the personal data originate, or Article 13 and 14 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council and
- (i) where applicable, detailed information on whether and how the sanctions for the offences listed in Article 2(1) can be mitigated, including by early payment of a financial penalty.

3. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall ensure that in the case where a non-resident driver who was checked on the spot in a road control and where the competent authority has not enforced the sanction related to the committed offence on the spot, that the non-resident driver receives the traffic offence notice referred to in paragraph 2. This traffic offence notice shall be sent to the non-resident driver, as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence, after the date of the offence.

3a. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall ensure that in the case where a non-resident driver was checked on the spot in a road control and where the competent authority has enforced the sanction related to the committed offence on the spot, that the non-resident driver receives at least the following information:

- receipt of the financial transaction or a financial penalty charge notice to be paid within a specific period of time;
- contact information of the competent authority;
- information on the offences committed.

This information shall be provided in one of the official languages of the Member State of the offence or any other official EU language deemed appropriate by the competent authority.

4. Upon request of concerned persons, and as set out by the national law, the competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall ensure that access is granted to all information in the possession of the competent authority of the Member State of the offence related to the investigation of a road-safety-related-offence listed in Article 2(1). The Member State of the offence may consider requesting such information as availing legal remedy against the imposed sanction, in which case they shall inform the concerned person in a clear and concise way about this fact in the traffic offence notice.

5. Member States shall ensure that the start of the time limits for non-residents to exercise their rights of appeal or to mitigate sanctions, in accordance with paragraph 2, points (e) and (i), correspond to the date of postal or electronic dispatch or receipt of the traffic offence notice or the official decision on the liability of the concerned person.’

- (7) The following Articles are inserted:

Article 5a

Service of the traffic offence notice and follow-up documents

1. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall send the traffic offence notice and the follow-up documents to the concerned persons by post, registered delivery or electronic means with equal value in accordance with Chapter III, Section 7 of Regulation (EU) 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁷.
2. The competent authority of the Member States of the offence shall ensure that the traffic offence notice and any follow-up documents are sent as defined in the law of the Member State of the offence. Traffic offence notices addressed to the holder, owner or end-user of a vehicle shall be issued no later than 12 months from the date of the commission of the traffic offence listed in Article 2(1).

Article 5a1

Mutual assistance in the service of the traffic offence notice and follow-up documents

1. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence may send the traffic offence notice or the follow-up documents to the concerned persons via the competent authorities of the Member State of registration or the Member State of residence, in the following cases:
 - (a) the address of the person for whom the document is intended is unknown, incomplete or uncertain;
 - (b) the procedural rules under the national law of the Member State of the offence require proof of service of the document, other than proof that can be obtained by post, registered delivery or by equivalent electronic means;

³⁷ Regulation (EU) 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC (OJ L 257, 28.8.2014, p.73).

- (c) it has not been possible to serve the document by post, registered delivery or by equivalent electronic means;
- (d) the Member State of the offence has justified reasons for considering that the service of the document by post, registered delivery or by equivalent electronic means in that particular case will be ineffective or is inappropriate.

The competent authorities of the Member State of the offence and of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of the residence shall communicate with each other via their respective national contact points.

2. The Member State of registration or the Member state of residence shall ensure that the traffic offence notice and the follow-up documents that are to be served in accordance with paragraph 1 are served either in accordance with their national law, or when duly justified, by a particular method requested by the Member State of the offence, unless such method is incompatible with their national law.

3. The Member State of registration or the Member State of residence shall ensure that the competent authority provides an electronically structured response including:

- (a) where the delivery is successful, the date of service and data about the person receiving the document,
- (b) where the delivery is not successful, a reason for failing to deliver the traffic offence notice or follow up document shall be given.

The response of a successful delivery shall be considered as a proof of service of the document.

Article 5a2

Translation of the traffic offence notice and essential follow-up documents

1. Where the competent authority of the Member State of the offence decides to initiate follow-up proceedings in relation to the traffic offences listed in Article 2(1), it shall issue the traffic offence notice and any essential follow-up documents in the language of the registration document of the vehicle.

For the purposes of this Article, follow up documents shall be considered essential if they are necessary for the concerned person to understand what he or she is accused of and to be able fully to exercise his or her rights of defence. Those elements include, in particular, the facts on which the notified decision is based, the offence committed, the penalty imposed, the legal remedies available against that decision, the time limit laid down for that purpose and the identification of the body before which the appeal must be lodged.

1a. The competent authorities shall, in any given case, decide whether a follow-up document is essential.

1b. The competent authorities shall, in any given case, decide whether any other document is essential.

1c. There shall be no requirement to translate passages of essential documents which are not relevant for the purposes of enabling concerned persons to have knowledge of the case against them, in accordance with the second subparagraph of paragraph 1.

2. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall allow the concerned person to ask to receive the follow-up documents in one different official EU language than the language of the registration document of the vehicle.

3. Member States shall ensure that the quality of the translation of the traffic offence notice and of the follow-up documents is at least of the standard laid down in Article 3(9) of Directive 2010/64/EU.

4. The Member State of the offence shall ensure that the traffic offence notice and the follow-up documents served to the concerned persons are reviewed effectively and rapidly by a competent authority with the power to adopt legally binding decisions, at the request of concerned person on the grounds that such documents do not comply with this Article, Article 5a and 5a1.

- (8) Articles 6, 7 and 8 are replaced by the following:

‘Article 6

Reporting and monitoring

2. By [*four years after the date of entry into force of this Directive*], and every four years thereafter, each Member State shall send a report to the Commission on the application of this Directive. The report shall contain data and statistics corresponding to each calendar year of the reporting period.

3. The report shall indicate the number of automated searches conducted by the Member State of the offence in accordance with Article 4(1) and addressed to the national contact point of the Member State of registration, following road-safety-related-traffic offences listed in Article 2(1) that were committed on its territory, together with the type of the offences for which requests were addressed and the structured number of failed requests according to the type of failure. This information may be based on the data provided through Eucaris.

The report shall also include a description of the situation at national level in relation to the follow-up given to the road-safety-related-traffic offences. The description shall at least specify:

- (a) the total number of registered road-safety-related-traffic offences listed in Article 2(1) which were detected automatically or without the identification of the concerned person on the spot;
- (b) the number of registered road-safety-related-traffic offences listed in Article 2(1) which were committed with vehicles registered in a Member State other than the Member State in which the offence took place and detected automatically or without the identification of the concerned person on the spot;
- (c) the number of fixed or removable automatic detection equipment, including speed cameras;

- (d) the number of financial penalties paid voluntarily by non-residents;
- (e) the number of electronically transmitted mutual assistance requests and responses in accordance with Article 4a(3) and the number of such requests where the information was not provided;
- (f) the number of electronically transmitted mutual assistance requests and responses in accordance with Articles 4a and 5a1(1) and the number of such requests where it was not possible to serve the documents.

4. The Commission shall assess the reports sent by the Member States and inform the Committee referred to in Article 10a on their content no later than 6 months after receiving the reports from all the Member States.

Article 7

Additional obligations

This Directive is without prejudice to Union law on the protection of personal data and on cybersecurity, in particular Regulation (EU) 2016/679, Directive (EU) 2016/680 and Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁸. Member States shall ensure that all personal data processed in accordance with this Directive are only used for the objective set out in Article 1 of this Directive.

In addition to that, also legal entities in their quality as holders, owners or end-users of vehicles subject to the data exchange of this Directive shall have the right to obtain information on the processing of their data.

Member States shall inform each other on cybersecurity incidents, notified pursuant to Article 23 of Directive (EU) 2022/2555, where the incidents relate to data stored in virtual or physical clouds or cloud-hosting services.

³⁸ Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS 2 Directive) (OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 80).

Article 8

Information portal on road-safety-related-traffic offences ('CBE Portal')

1. The Commission shall establish and maintain an online CBE Portal available in all official languages of the Union dedicated to sharing information with road users on the rules in the field covered by this Directive in force in the Member States. This shall include appeal procedures, the road traffic fines that are applied to the concerned person when committing a traffic offence, where applicable the applied non-financial effects and the schemes and available means for the payment of the road traffic fines;
4. The CBE Portal shall be compatible with the interface established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council³⁹ and with other portals or platforms with a similar purpose, such as the European e-Justice Portal.
5. Member States shall provide up-to-date information to the Commission, for the purposes of this Article.
6. The Commission shall adopt implementing acts in order to establish the technical specifications necessary for the use and maintenance of the CBE Portal. Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 10a(2).'

³⁹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1724 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 October 2018 establishing a single digital gateway to provide access to information, to procedures and to assistance and problem-solving services and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 1).

- (9) The following Articles are inserted:

Article 8a

Financial support for cross-border cooperation in enforcement activities

The Commission shall provide financial support to initiatives that contribute to cross-border cooperation in the enforcement of road-safety-related-traffic rules in the Union, in particular the exchange of best practices, the application of smart enforcement methodologies and techniques in the Member States, increasing the capacity building of enforcement authorities and awareness raising campaigns regarding cross-border enforcement actions.

Article 8b

Mutual assistance in enforcement activities

1. Member States shall provide enforcement assistance to each other in the case of non-payment of a road traffic fine imposed for the commission of a road-safety-related traffic offences listed in Article 2(1).
2. After the service of the traffic offence notice to the concerned person and in the case of non-payment of a road traffic fine imposed by the competent authority of the Member State of the offence, the latter may request the competent authority of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of residence to assist in the enforcement of administrative decisions on road traffic fines related to road-safety-related traffic offences listed in Article 2(1).
3. The request for assistance shall comply with the following criteria:
 - (a) the decision on a road traffic fine shall be of administrative nature, final and enforceable according to the applicable laws and regulations of the requesting Member State;
 - (b) the Member State of the offence is in the possession of a proof of service to the concerned person of the request for the payment of the road traffic fine;

- (c) the concerned person was informed of and had an opportunity to exercise the legal remedies against the administrative decision imposing a road traffic fine according to the applicable laws and regulations of the Member State of the offence and
- (d) the road traffic fine is higher than 70€.

4. The competent authority of the Member State of the offence shall transmit the request related to the mutual assistance, referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, to the Member State of the registration or the Member State of the residence in an electronically structured form.

5. If the concerned person can demonstrate that the payments of the road traffic fine has been made, the competent authority of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of residence shall promptly notify the competent authority of the Member State of the offence about this.

6. The competent authorities of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of residence shall recognise the administrative decision on a road traffic fine which has been transmitted in accordance with this Article without any further formality being required and shall forthwith take all the necessary measures for its enforcement unless this competent authority decides to invoke one of the grounds for non-recognition or non-enforcement provided for in paragraph 8.

7. The enforcement of the decision on a road traffic fine ~~is~~ shall be governed by the laws and regulations applicable in the Member State of registration or Member State of residence.

8. The competent authority of the requested Member State may refuse to recognise and enforce the administrative decision on a road traffic fine if it is established that:

- (a) the enforcement of the decision on a road traffic fine is contrary to the principal of “ne bis in idem”;
- (b) there is immunity under the law of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of the residence, which makes it impossible to enforce the administrative decision on a road traffic fine;

- (c) the decision on a road traffic fine is no longer enforceable under the law of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of the residence due to lapse of time;
- (d) the decision on a road traffic fine is not final;
- (e) the decision on a road traffic fine or at least its essential content is not translated into the official EU language of the Member State of registration or the Member State of residence;
- (f) the request is incomplete and cannot be completed by the competent authorities of the Member State of the offence or
- (g) fundamental rights or fundamental legal principles as enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union⁴⁰ are infringed upon.

If a request is rejected, the competent authority of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of the residence shall notify the competent authority of the Member State of the offence, stating the reasons for the rejection.

9. The sum of money obtained from the enforcement of the decision on a road traffic fine shall accrue to the Member State of the registration or the Member State of the residence unless otherwise agreed between the Member State of the offence and the Member State of the registration or the Member State of the residence. The money shall be accrued in the currency of the Member State of the registration or the Member State of the residence, whichever is being requested.

10. Paragraphs 1 to 9 shall not preclude the application of the Framework Decision 2005/214/JHA, bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements between Member States in so far as such agreements or arrangements help to simplify or facilitate further the procedures for the enforcement of financial penalties under the scope of this Directive.’

⁴⁰ OJ C 326, 26.10.2012, p. 391

- (10) Article 9 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 9

Delegated acts

The Commission shall be empowered to adopt delegated acts in accordance with Article 10 to amend the Annex to update it in the light of technical progress or where this is required by legal acts of the Union directly relevant to the updating of the Annex.’

- (11) The following Article is inserted:

‘Article 10a

Committee procedure

1. The Commission shall be assisted by a committee. That committee shall be a committee within the meaning of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴¹.

2. Where reference is made to this paragraph, Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply. Where the committee delivers no opinion, the Commission shall not adopt the draft implementing act and Article 5(4), third subparagraph, of Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 shall apply.’;

- (12) Article 11 is replaced by the following:

‘Article 11

Reporting by the Commission

The Commission shall submit a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the application of this Directive by the Member States no later than 18 months after receiving the reports referred to in Article 6(2) from all Member States.’

⁴¹ Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 laying down the rules and general principles concerning mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission’s exercise of implementing powers (OJ L 55, 28.2.2011, p. 13).

- (13) Annex I is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Directive;
- (14) Annex II is deleted.

Article 1a

Transitional reporting

Member States shall send at the latest on 6 May 2026 a comprehensive report to the Commission in accordance with the second and third subparagraph of this Article.

The comprehensive report shall indicate the number of automated searches conducted by the Member State of the offence addressed to the national contact points of the Member States of registration, following offences committed on its territory, together with the type of offences for which requests were addressed and the number of failed requests.

The comprehensive report shall also include a description of the situation at national level in relation to the follow-up given to the road-safety-related traffic offences, based on the proportion of such offences which have been followed up by traffic offence notices.

Article 2

1. Member States shall bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive by [*please insert: three years after the date of entry into force of this Directive*] at the latest. They shall forthwith communicate to the Commission the text of those provisions.

When Member States adopt those provisions, they shall contain a reference to this Directive or be accompanied by such a reference on the occasion of their official publication. Member States shall determine how such reference is to be made.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of the main provisions of national law which they adopt in the field covered by this Directive.

Article 3

This Directive shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Article 4

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

‘Annex

Data elements necessary to conduct the search referred to in Article 4(1)

1. Data elements of initiating search (outgoing request)

Item	M/O ⁽¹⁾	Remarks
Member State of registration	M	Distinguishing sign ⁽²⁾ of the Member State of registration of the detected vehicle
Registration number	M	Full registration number of the detected vehicle
Data relating to the offence	M	
Member State of the offence	M	Distinguishing sign ⁽³⁾ of the Member State of the offence
Reference date of the offence	M	
Reference time of the offence	M	
Purpose of the search	M	<p>Code indicating the type of road-traffic offence as listed in Article 2(1)</p> <p>1. = Speeding</p> <p>2. = Drink-driving</p> <p>3. = Failing to use a seat belt</p> <p>4. = Failing to stop at a red traffic light</p> <p>5. = Use of a forbidden lane</p> <p>10. = Driving under the influence of drugs</p> <p>11. = Failing to wear a safety helmet</p> <p>12. = Illegally using a mobile phone or any other communication devices while driving</p> <p>[...] = Not keeping sufficient distance from the vehicle in front</p> <p>[...] = Dangerous overtaking</p> <p>[...] = Dangerous parking</p> <p>[...] = Crossing one or more solid lines</p> <p>[...] = Wrong-way driving</p> <p>[...] = Not respecting the rules on the creation and use of emergency corridors</p> <p>[...] = Use of an overloaded vehicle</p>

		[...] = not respecting the rules on vehicle-access-restrictions [...] = hit-and-run [...] = not respecting the rules at a railway level-crossing
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(¹) M = Mandatory communication of the data element, O = Optional communication of the data element.

(²) (³) Distinguishing sign in accordance with Article 37 of Vienna Convention of 8 November 1968 concluded under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

2. Data elements provided as a result of the initiating search conducted pursuant to Article 4(1)

Part I. Data relating to vehicles

Item	M/O (⁴)	Remarks (⁵)
Registration number	M	(Code A) Full registration number of the requested vehicle
Chassis number/VIN	M	(Code E) Full chassis number/VIN of the requested vehicle
Member State of registration	M	Distinguishing sign(⁶) of the Member State of registration of the requested vehicle
Make	M	(Code D.1) Make of the requested vehicle e.g. Ford, Opel, Renault
Commercial description(s) of the vehicle	M	(Code D.3) Commercial description of the requested vehicle e.g. Focus, Astra, Megane
EU Category Code	M	(Code J) e.g. N1, M2, N2, L, T
Registration date	M	(Code I) Date of the last registration of the requested vehicle
Language	M	Language of the vehicle registration document
Previous inquiries	O	The dates of previous inquiries on the requested vehicle
Date of 1st registration of the vehicle	M	(Code B)
Maximum technically permissible laden mass except for motorcycles	M	(Code F.1)
Maximum permissible laden mass of the vehicle in service in the Member State of registration	M	(Code F.2)
Maximum permissible laden mass of the whole vehicle in service in the Member	M	(Code F.3)

State of registration		
Mass of the vehicle in service with bodywork and with coupling device in the case of a towing vehicle in service from any category other than M1	M	(Code G)
(L) number of axles;	M	(Code L)
(M) wheelbase (in mm)	M	(Code M)
(N) for vehicles with a total exceeding 3 500 kg, distribution of the technically permissible maximum laden mass among the axles: (N.1) axle 1 (in kg) (N.2) axle 2 (in kg), where appropriate (N.3) axle 3 (in kg), where appropriate (N.4) axle 4 (in kg), where appropriate (N.5) axle 5 (in kg), where appropriate	M	(Code N) (Code N.1) (Code N.2) (Code N.3) (Code N.4) (Code N.5)
(O) technically permissible maximum towable mass of the trailer: (O.1) braked (in kg) (O.2) unbraked (in kg)	M	(Code O) (Code O.1) (Code O.2)
(P) engine: (P.3) type of fuel or power source	M	(Code P) (Code P.3)
EURO type	M	(Code V.9)

(4) M = Mandatory communication of the data element, O = Optional communication of the data element.

(5) The codes are harmonised according to Annex I and II to Council Directive 1999/37/EC on the registration documents for vehicles (OJ L 138, 1.6.1999, p. 57).

(^e) Distinguishing sign in accordance with Article 37 of Vienna Convention of 8 November 1968 concluded under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Part II. Data relating to holders and owners of the vehicles

Item	M/O (^r)	Remarks (^s)
Data relating to holders of the vehicle		(Code C.1) The data refers to the holder of the specific registration certificate.
Registration holders' (company) name	M	(Code C.1.1) Separate fields shall be used for surname, infixes, titles, and the name in printable format shall be communicated.
First name	M	(Code C.1.2) Separate fields for first name(s) and initials shall be used, and the name in printable format shall be communicated.
Address	M	(Code C.1.3) Separate fields shall be used for street, house number and annex, postal code, place of residence, country of residence, etc., and the address in printable format shall be communicated.
Gender	O	Male, female
Date of birth	M	
Legal entity	M	Natural or legal person
Place of Birth	O	
ID Number	O	An identifier that uniquely identifies the person or the company
Data relating to owners of the vehicle		(Code C.2) The data refer to the owner of the vehicle.
Owners' (company) name	M	(Code C.2.1)
First name	M	(Code C.2.2)
Address	M	(Code C.2.3)
Gender	O	Male, female
Date of birth	M	
Legal entity	M	Natural or legal person
Place of Birth	O	
ID Number	M	An identifier that uniquely identifies the person or the company

(^e) M = Mandatory communication of the data element when available in a Member State's national register. O = Optional communication of the data element.

(⁸) The codes are harmonised according to Annex I and II to Council Directive 1999/37/EC on the registration documents for vehicles (OJ L 138, 1.6.1999, p. 57).

Part III. Data relating to end users of the vehicles

Item	M/O (^e)	Remarks
Data relating to end users of the vehicle		The data refers to the end user of the vehicle.
Registration end users' name	M	Separate fields shall be used for surname, infixes, titles, and the name in printable format shall be communicated.
First name	M	Separate fields for first name(s) and initials shall be used, and the name in printable format shall be communicated.
Address	M	Separate fields shall be used for street, house number and annex, postal code, place of residence, country of residence, etc., and the address in printable format shall be communicated.
Gender	O	Male, female
Date of birth	M	
Place of Birth	O	
ID Number	M	An identifier that uniquely identifies the person

(^e) M = Mandatory communication of the data element when available in a Member State's national register. O = Optional communication of the data element.

Part IV. Data relating to previous holders and owners of the vehicles, in accordance with Article 4(3)

Item	M/O ⁽¹⁰⁾	Remarks ⁽¹¹⁾
Data relating to previous holders of the vehicle		(Code C.1) The data refers to the holder of the specific registration certificate.
Registration previous holders' (company) name	M	(Code C.1.1) Separate fields shall be used for surname, infixes, titles, and the name in printable format shall be communicated.
First name	M	(Code C.1.2) Separate fields for first name(s) and initials shall be used, and the name in printable format shall be communicated.
Address	M	(Code C.1.3) Separate fields shall be used for street, house number and annex, postal code, place of residence, country of residence, etc., and the address in printable format shall be communicated.
Gender	O	Male, female
Date of birth	M	
Legal entity	M	Natural or legal person
Place of Birth	O	
ID Number	O	An identifier that uniquely identifies the person or the company.
Data relating to previous owners of the vehicle		(Code C.2) The data refer to the previous owner of the vehicle.
Previous owners' (company) name	M	(Code C.2.1)
First name	M	(Code C.2.2)
Address	M	(Code C.2.3)
Gender	O	Male, female
Date of birth	M	
Legal entity	M	Natural or legal person
Place of Birth	O	
ID Number	O	An identifier that uniquely identifies the person or the company.

(⁹⁹) M = Mandatory communication of the data element when available in a Member State's national register, O = Optional communication of the data element.

(¹⁰⁰) The codes are harmonised according to Annex I and II to Council Directive 1999/37/EC on the registration documents for vehicles (OJ L 138, 1.6.1999, p. 57).

Part V. Data relating to previous end users of the vehicles, in accordance with Article 4(3)

Item	M/O (¹⁰⁰)	Remarks
Data relating to previous end users of the vehicle		The data refers to previous end user of the vehicle.
Registration previous end users' name	M	Separate fields shall be used for surname, infixes, titles, and the name in printable format shall be communicated.
First name	M	Separate fields for first name(s) and initials shall be used, and the name in printable format shall be communicated.
Address	M	Separate fields shall be used for street, house number and annex, postal code, place of residence, country of residence, etc., and the address in printable format shall be communicated.
Gender	O	Male, female
Date of birth	M	
Place of Birth	O	
ID Number	M	An identifier that uniquely identifies the person.

(¹⁰⁰) M = Mandatory communication of the data element when available in a Member State's national register, O = Optional communication of the data element.