

News from the Motorcycle Action Group (MAG)

MAG says Keep Calm and Carry On

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Reports were flying around parts of the press and social media yesterday of a new EU ruling meaning on-board restricting computers will be fitted to all new motorcycles to stop them speeding. The reports were not accurate.

We immediately contacted our friends at the Federation of European Motorcycle Associations (FEMA) the European riders, rights organisation. FEMA General Secretary, Dolf Willigers confirmed that he had seen a number of reports in the British press that were “just not right”.

Dolf went on to explain: “The parliamentary committee on internal market and consumer affairs (IMCO) has adopted a revised version of the General Safety Regulation. The scope of the regulation are M and N category vehicles, not L-category vehicles (motorcycles are category L3e vehicles)”

“The draft regulation talks of an assistance system that cannot be turned off, but the IMCO adapted report states that the driver can always switch the system on or off.”

“During the last Committee meeting this subject was discussed extensively. I was told that ISA for cars was on its way and ISA for motorcycles could be expected sooner or later, but that I had the assurance of both the European Commission, and of ETSC that there are no plans for ISA for motorcycles yet. If/when there is an ISA for motorcycles, this will not interfere with speed, because they all realise, and expressed to me, that this is too dangerous.”

“So, in conclusion: ISA for motorcycles is not there yet, there are no concrete (official) plans in that direction yet either, but it will come sooner or later. We should be prepared for that and draft the conditions while we still can do that.”

MAG’s Director of Campaigns and Political Engagement, Colin Brown said “It is important to remember when breaking news headlines to always check the facts to avoid confusion. Both MAG UK and FEMA are always willing to comment accurately on anything relating to motorcycle policy and legislation. FEMA is taking the best, most effective approach of working with the authorities to shape regulations in a way that is acceptable to bikers. There is no need to panic – they are on the case.”

MAG’s Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Lembit Opik said: “It is a concern that ISA this is on the agenda in some form. Since history tells us that regulations only tend to increase in our current authoritarian climate, there is potential darkness on the horizon. That said this is not a campaign we need to run now, but be aware of for the future. We will continue to support and work with our friends at FEMA to ensure we keep riders rights protected.”

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