



Federation of European
Motorcyclists' Associations

De Meeûssquare 18
B-1050 Elsene – Belgium
Tel.: +31 613269211
www.femamotorcycling.eu

EU Transparency register
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FEMA v.z.w.

Mr. Stylianos Papatheodorou
Chief of Police
Cyprus

Brussels, 16/08/2020

Subject: decree to close roads for motorcycles

Dear Sir,

Our Cypriote member Cyprus Motorcycle Rights Club CMRC (Λέσχη Δικαιωμάτων Μοτοσυκλετιστών Κύπρου) alerted us to the fact that the Cyprus Police has by decree closed a number of roads for motorcycles and other L-category vehicles for the duration of the month August.

It's common that roads are closed for traffic by the police in case of incidents. We are very surprised however by the fact that in Cyprus roads are closed for traffic by the police while there are no incidents. In all member states of the European Union the decision to close roads for traffic, even for a limited period, are taken by the competent road authorities following legal and democratic procedures. The fact that this seems not the case in Cyprus is at least worrying and raises questions about the degree of rule of law in this matters or the legitimacy of police actions in Cyprus.

Other questions raise when considering the lack of justification and substantiation of the decree. To close of public roads for a certain category of road users is a serious matter that should be justified by very good reasons and substantiated by facts. Furthermore, to close public roads for certain categories of road users is a measure that must only be taken as a last resort, when all other possible measures were tried and proved not to lead to the desired goal. In this case, it seems that this has not been done.

Next I need to point out that motorcycles and other L-category vehicles can only be sold in the European Union if they meet the requirements of the European whole vehicle type approval regulation (Regulation EU/168/2013). There is no reason why a road authority, let alone the police, should not allow this kind of vehicle the free use of public roads. To make an exception for motorcycles is against the principles of free transport of goods and persons, which is one of the most important principles of the European Union. It also raises questions about the legitimacy of the decree.

Motorcycles are an accepted, legal and for many people important, if not the only, way of transport that, especially during the Covid-19 crisis plays an important role to keep people mobile and able to go to work, schools, universities, family. It also plays an important role in recreation in this stressful times.

Concluding, we are talking here about important democratic, legal and social issues that are at stake as a result of the decree to close public roads to L-category vehicles. Therefore, I urge you to withdraw the decree.

About FEMA: the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations has 23 member organizations in 18 European countries with 275,000 members. FEMA represents 26 million European motorcyclists in Brussels at the European Union. Our main goal is to promote, protect and preserve motorcycling, and also to promote measures which in the opinion of the Federation encourage safe and responsible road use.

Please feel free to contact me or one of our national organization Cyprus Motorcycle Rights Club if you have any questions or need some advice.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dolf Willigers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dolf Willigers,
General Secretary.