

Basingstoke MAG

28/10/2010

Rep Keith:

E-MAIL'S

News from the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations (FEMA)

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- > EUROPEAN COMMISSION REJECTS SWITCH-OFF OPTION FOR MOTORCYCLE ABS
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- > In yesterday's meeting (21/10/2010) with Member States, the European Commission formally presented the proposal for new type approval rules for motorcycles. Besides introducing mandatory anti-lock braking systems for motorcycles above 125cc, the Commission rejected the introduction of an off-switch for ABS.
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- > On October 4th, 2010 the European Commission released a proposal for new type approval rules for motorcycles. Following the suggestions of FEMA, the Federation of European Motorcyclists' Associations, the Commission proposes to abolish the 100hp (74KW) limit in place in France, as well as the introduction of strong durability requirements for tailpipe emissions. But the proposal also includes harsh restrictions on riders' freedom, like mandatory ABS and additional requirements for engine modifications.
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- > With regard to road safety, though very supportive of technological improvements such as ABS, FEMA reminded the Commission that vehicle aspects represent less than 2% of motorcycle accident causation factors and objected to the Commission's mandatory approach, which is limiting consumer choice. Instead, FEMA called for mandatory switch-off buttons for bikes equipped with ABS, since ABS is not suitable for certain riding conditions, especially with regard to riding on unpaved roads.
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- > The Commission acknowledges that fact but considers the number of citizens living in areas with a high percentage of unpaved roads as negligible compared to the broader riding population. Indeed, the Commission fears that too many riders would switch off the ABS also when riding on common roads, due to "unjustified lack of faith in new technologies".
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- > In addition to the limitation of consumer choice and increased costs for purchasing a motorcycle, FEMA is also concerned about the proposal not taking into account increased maintenance costs for ABS, and making no reference regarding durability and liability.
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- > END

Registration numbers for the Mass Lobby have been steady, but we need more riders to commit to attending on the 8th if we are to really succeed. We have a week to make a difference so I need everyone, especially regional reps and local reps, to make one last solid effort to drum-up support. Unfortunately, our 'partners' in the BMF do not appear to have been able to mobilise their troops so part of our message to MAG activists has to be spread the word among any BMF members they know, and for that matter any riders who do not belong to either MAG or BMF.

Closer to home, and apart from some honourable exceptions, there has been little take-up by regional and local reps. It simply isn't going to be possible for every rep to get to Parliament; there is no shame in having to make an appointment to see an MP in the local constituency on another day. But, this is one of those times when national and regional leadership is needed to mobilise our support and show that MAG has the strength to lead.

If you have not already done so, could I ask that you contact as many of your local reps and activists as possible, point them in the direction of the page 7 in the current edition of TheROAD (issue 31 - Nov/Dec 2010), or Network, or www.ridersarevoters.org. Get them to register before the end of next week and suggest they ask someone else to go with them to share the experience, find out what practical lobbying is all about, provide moral support, etc. If you or your local activists are genuinely not able to come along to Parliament, please suggest they ask someone else to go for them.

Central office has been plugging the event through different channels and we will keep on, but we can't reach everyone you can in your area.

Let's not make the mistake of sapping our energy on blaming the BMF or our own efforts, complaining about the arrangements, etc. - I'm happy to have a post-mortem on what went right or wrong at the next NC, but right now we need to turn our energies to making sure the event goes well on the 8th November.

Thanks for your help on this, especially to those that have already pulled-out all the stops.

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MAG PRESS RELEASE

24-10-10

For immediate use

Brussels says: "You will have anti-Lock Brakes and like them."

Riders will have anti-lock braking systems (ABS) with no option to disable them whether they like them or not if the European Commission gets its way. The Commission plans to enforce the fitment of ABS to all new bikes above 125cc.

A compromise that might have enabled riders to switch their ABS off has been rejected by the Commission on the grounds that ABS will offer safety benefits far more often than it will pose safety problems. The Commission is concerned that what they describe as false anxiety about ABS, may lead riders to disable their systems in normal on-road use and thus lose the benefits these systems offer.

The Commission acknowledges that ABS may pose disadvantages in off-road situations but considers the number of citizens living in areas with a high percentage of unpaved roads as negligible compared to the broader riding

population.

MAG President Ian Mutch said, "This is typical Commission bullishness of the 'one size fits all philosophy.' Very few road accidents have anything to do with the machines themselves. Unless we can steer the Commission away from this obsession with technical solutions then we are just going to face a lot of expense with no certainty that it will reduce accidents at all."

The Federation of European Motorcyclists Associations (FEMA) argues that in addition to the limitation of consumer choice, the fitment of ABS will significantly increase the purchase cost and maintenance cost of motorcycles.

On a positive note, following FEMA's suggestion, the Commission proposes to prohibit member states from applying national power limits like the 100hp limit currently in place in France.

NB MAGUK is a founder member of FEMA . One Euro from each £25 MAGUK membership subscription goes to help fund the cost of running FEMA.

A.O.B

Keith: Need to sell tickets for MAG raffle £1 per ticket.

Red: New season of bowling starts 1st Nov at the Bowlplex. Fun night first then season starts. New players welcome. Teams of two.

Keith:

750 Virago L Reg New MOT 15000 Has to be seen as condition not the best
15000 Miles
Contact Ian on 07917 400374

Meeting closed.

EVENTS:

November

9th November: Winchester MAG AGM. At The New Queens Head.

13TH November: Southern Region AGM. At the Royal Oak Basingstoke. 6pm

27th November: Carole Nash Bike Show, NEC 27th November-5th December. £15

December

18th December: Basingstoke MAG. Christmas Children's Run and Evening Party at the Royal Oak.

The band is STRICKEN 22.

30th December: NO BASINGSTOKE MAG MEETING.

30th December: Basingstoke MAG Christmas Meal. 7.30pm at AM top of town.

31ST December: NEW YEAR EVE at THE ROYAL OAK. Ticket for the night.

January 2011

15th January: Salisbury MAG, AGM. At The Village Pub in Salisbury.