II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

of 4 February 1991

amending, with a view to fixing certain maximum authorized dimensions for road trains, Directive 85/3/EEC

(91/60/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 75 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission (1),

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament (2),

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee (3),

Whereas, Council Directive 85/3/EEC of 19 December 1984 on the weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles (4), as last amended by Directive 89/461/EEC (5), by only fixing a maximum length for road trains, encourages carriers and manufacturers to continously increase the maximum load length of such vehicles;

Whereas this increase involves a reduction in the space reserved for the driver;

Whereas there is a consequent deterioration in the comfort and safety of the driver's working area;

Whereas the current standards should be improved so as to lead to a better balance between the rational use of road trains and the requirements of road safety, in particular by fixing the maximum load length,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

Directive 85/3/EEC is hereby amended as follows:

1. the following Article is inserted:

'*Article 4b*

For the purposes of Article 3 (1), road trains the motor vehicle of which was put into circulation before 31 December 1991 which do not comply with the requirements of sections 1.7 and 1.8 of Annex I shall until 31 December 1998 be deemed to conform to such requirements provided that they do not exceed the total length of 18,00 m.';

2. Section 1.1 of Annex I is replaced by the following:

'1.1. Maximum length:

— motor vehicle	12,00 m
— trailer	12,00 m
— articulated vehicle	16,50 m
— road train	18,35 m
— articulated bus	18,00 m';

(1) OJ No C 316, 16. 12. 1989, p. 5, and OJ No C 268, 24. 10. 1990, p. 12.
(2) OJ No C 149, 18. 6. 1990, p. 28.
(3) OJ No C 182, 23. 7. 1990, p. 29.
(4) OJ No L 2, 3. 1. 1985, p. 14.
(5) OJ No L 226, 3. 8. 1989, p. 7.