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Abstract Title: Bioptic Telescope and EU Driver's Licence

Abstract:

More than in Europe, in the US the Bioptic Telescope (BT) has entered daily use and practice. In some US states, legislation has been adapted and/or ways have been found to be able to drive with the BT legally for example by using the device to attain the visual acuity norm, which could not have been attained without.

At present in Europe, such endeavours, explicit for the BT, have not been made. Several reasons for this can be highlighted. The later introduction of the device to the European market being one of them. The fundamentally different structure of legislation and policy making, being another.

Currently, visual norms for the European Union (EU) driver's licence (DL) are being discussed and will perhaps even be revised in the near future, provided objective and scientific indications to do so. As a consequence, now is a good time to study and discuss the potential of the device to profit from these current developments.

In the presentation the general idea behind the EU's legislation and directives will be highlighted. The relationship between the relevant EU's directives and legislation in different member states will be explained, clarifying how and to what degree member states can apply different visual norms for the DL. Belgium, but also other member states, will serve as an example. Finally, propositions will be made how the BT or it's use could be incorporated in the EU's legal system and that of the member states.