



CONCLUSION

Given the effort which the European motorcycle industry and certain riders' groups put into trying to stop the original standards work, because of fears they would lead to motorcyclists being compelled to wear certified clothing (see "The European Commission becomes involved", above), it is bewildering how nothing was apparently done by either party to prevent the decision by Members of the European Parliament to categorise all motorcyclists' clothing as PPE.

Industry must also shoulder the blame for failing to comply with the requirements of the PPE Directive and for reneging on the agreement reached with the European Commission. Against such blatant disregard, is it not surprising that legislators have acted as they have.

On a positive note, the industry is now staffed by different people and there is generally a more receptive attitude to the suite of standards for motorcyclists' protectors, gloves and footwear - albeit that they are faced with a *fai accompli* in terms of being expected to comply with the PPE Regulation! If there are concerns, they must be focused on how the revision to the clothing standard - prEN 17092 - will progress and whether it will continue to provide a benchmark to which products should aspire, or simply serve to rubber stamp what manufacturers are already, simply so they can avoid being prosecuted for non-compliance with the new PPE regulation and with no real benefit to rider safety.

In this regard, the new motorcycle clothing standards are necessary, if not in fact vital to the industry, but consumers' interests must also be safeguarded by ensuring that the requirements in those standards do not simply represent an overall dilution of protective performance of clothing, but a progressive hierarchy of classification of products and, in that regard, and extension of consumer choice.