

ABSTRACT

DAMPING DEVICE WITH POWER-ASSISTED DECELERATION AND USE
THEREOF FOR THE DAMPING OF THE RETRACTABLE STEERING COLUMN
OF A MOTOR VEHICLE

The invention relates to a damping device (1) with power-assisted deceleration, which is intended to be used in the field of hydraulic shock dampers. The inventive device is of the type that comprises a sealed body (10) which is filled with a hydraulic fluid (F) and in which a piston (20) is mounted, said piston being solidly connected to a rod (2) that can be moved axially outside the body (10). According to the invention, the rod (2) and the body (10) are arranged such that, while one is solidly connected to a support, an impact (I) in relation to the other causes the axial movement of the piston (20) and the compression of the fluid (F) in a chamber (16). The invention also comprises: flow means (15) which are designed such as to enable the hydraulic fluid (F) to be released from the chamber (16); and an element (3) which can move axially, under the effect of its own mass, inside the body (10) and which is designed such as to form a check valve that can seal the flow means (15) when pushed back in the opposite direction to that of the impact (I) by an elastic means (30).

Figure 2