



NEWS RELEASE
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Commission still "assessing the opportunity" of legislation

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)⁽¹⁾ welcomes the European Commission's Communication on the CARS 21 High Level Group Final Report⁽²⁾. A safe, sustainable and efficient transport system is essential for the European Union and its economic and social development.

ETSC also supports the Commission's integrated approach to road safety, based on improvements in the areas of road user behaviour, vehicle and infrastructure. In the field of road safety, the Commission has approved all important conclusions made by the CARS 21 High Level Group.

However, the Commission failed once again in its Communication to propose a concrete timetable for action. It prefers to list 11 action points on road safety to be dealt with in a period of two years (2007-2009). Moreover, it has not added any new points to the High Level Group's list, following last years' stakeholder consultation. ETSC proposed in its contribution to this consultation that the Commission act to promote in-vehicle enforcement technologies such as Intelligent Speed Adaptation devices and alcohol interlocks⁽³⁾.

Two proposals should be featuring high up the Commission's priority list with concrete dates for proposals on:

- A Directive on cross-border enforcement
- A Directive on mandatory fitment of seat belt reminders
- A new phase II requirements of the Pedestrian Protection Directive.

Another point should be strengthened. Following the Commission's own assessment⁽⁴⁾ that road deaths will not decrease to the desired level without further efforts, the Commission should opt for:

- A Directive setting common standards in the area of enforcement

"Without uniform high standards in enforcement we will not be able to reach the EU target in 2010. By calling on Member States to increase their efforts the Commission will surely not achieve this." ETSC Executive Director Jörg Beckmann said.

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Notes to Editors:

⁽¹⁾ The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of transport crashes and casualties in Europe. ETSC seeks to identify and promote effective measures on the basis of international scientific research and best practice. It brings together 37 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.

⁽²⁾ The Communication from the Commission "A Competitive Automobile Regulatory framework for the 21st Century", Commission's position on the CARS 21 High Level Group Final Report, COM (2007), and the CARS 21 Final Report can be downloaded under:
<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/automotive/pagesbackground/competitiveness/cars21.htm>

⁽³⁾ See ETSC Response to the consultation on the CARS 21 Final Report:
http://www.etsc.be/documents/ETSC_Response_to_the_consultation_on_the_Cars21_final_report.pdf

⁽⁴⁾ Mid term Review of the European Road Safety Action Programme: COM (2006)