



PRESS STATEMENT

TUESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2003

Transport safety organisations' worst fears confirmed

Completely ignoring consumer and safety organisations, the European Commission adopted on 19 February a weak proposal on safer car fronts, which does not implement with certainty the well-established EEVC¹ crash tests for pedestrians.

“This proposal is totally unacceptable. DG Enterprise’s statement in its press notice², suggesting that its proposal will implement EEVC in the second phase so preventing 2000 fatalities is erroneous. The proposal adopted by the Commission subjects EEVC to a feasibility study in 2004 and the only crash tests it mandates offer 70% less protection against fatal injuries than EEVC” said Marie Defrance, ETSC Information Officer.

ETSC will now go on to urge the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament to ensure that the proposal can be improved by making the EEVC tests - the results of 22 years of EU-funded research and development - mandatory for new car designs.

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¹ EEVC (European Enhanced Safety of Vehicles Committee) is a consortium of Member States (France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom) national transport laboratories and industry, established to focus on crash safety.

² See http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/start/cgi/guesten.ksh?p_action.gettxt=gt&doc=IP/03/264|0|RAPID&lg=EN;