



PRESS NOTICE:

Tuesday 26th November 2002

LATEST EURONCAP RESULTS: NEW CARS CONTINUE TO BE EXCESSIVELY AND UNNECESSARILY DANGEROUS FOR PEDESTRIANS

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) is very concerned by the latest pedestrian test results unveiled by the European New Car Assessment Programme (EuroNCAP) launch today in Rome¹. New cars continue to perform badly in the EEVC pedestrian protection tests even though a car on EU roads today, the Honda Civic, meets around 80 per cent of the EEVC requirements without using new technology at an additional manufacturing cost of only 10 Euros per car².

Despite the fact that the EEVC pedestrian tests have been used since 1996 by EuroNCAP, the results today clearly show that the car industry continues to demonstrate no willingness to implement effective improvements in the front design of cars for pedestrians.

Jeanne Breen, ETSC's Executive Director said today:

"Time and time again, we have evidence that the car industry as a whole is not delivering voluntarily effective pedestrian protection. ETSC urges the European Commission to come forward as soon as possible with the promised and long-awaited legislative proposal on safer car fronts and, as urged by the European Parliament, to mandate the level of protection offered by the EEVC pedestrian requirements as the unequivocal goal for new car designs"³.

Contact: ETSC for further briefing material, Tel: +32 (0)2 230 41 06/40 04; Email: information@etsc.be.

¹ The results of the EU-funded European New Car Assessment Programme are available at: www.euroncap.com

² Transport Research Laboratory Ltd Costs and effectiveness of the Honda Civics' pedestrian protection, and the benefits of the EEVC and ACEA test proposals, April 2002

³ European Parliament Resolution 319.165 of 13 June 2002.