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Today's plenary vote in the European Parliament calls for legislation on pedestrian protection

The European Parliament's plenary called today for the European Commission to bring forward legislation on safer car fronts in its opinion on the voluntary commitment negotiated between the European Commission and the European car industry.

ETSC welcomes the fact that MEPs have insisted on the need for legislation on safer car fronts. However, ETSC is very disappointed that MEPs did not rule out, in their plenary vote, the acceptance of equivalent test methods (which do not exist) as an alternative to the well-researched and well-established EEVC pedestrian crash tests which could save 2000 lives a year across the EU. Safety and consumer organisations saw the certain implementation of the EEVC tests as the main rationale for legislation.

Jeanne Breen, Executive Director of ETSC said today: "Against the background of many years of procrastination on this issue, we urge the European Commission to take up without delay this clear invitation from the European Parliament to bring forward a proposal for legislation. It is clear that, left to their own devices, the car industry has and will not provide effective designs for safer car fronts. We urge the Commission to mandate the EEVC tests – the only scientifically-based crash tests which exist – for new car designs as soon as possible. At an additional cost at design stage of only 30 euros per car, this is the bare minimum that the car industry should be doing to make the fronts of cars less dangerous for pedestrians, the majority of whom are children or elderly road users."

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