



European Federation for
TRANSPORT and ENVIRONMENT



European Transport Safety Council

News Release

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For immediate release

Commission's New Car Industry Group "Lacks Expertise" Say Transport NGOs

At a press conference held today, Günter Verheugen, Vice-President of the Commission, and Bernd Pischetsrieder, President of ACEA (European Automobile Manufacturers Association), launched a new initiative to boost the competitiveness of the European car industry. A high level group called "CARS 21" will be set up.

European environmental and safety campaigners including T&E and ETSC welcomed Vice President Verheugen's comments that the "way forward" is "lean, clean and safe" but criticised the membership of the group, which they say is severely unbalanced and lacks the necessary expertise to deliver this mandate.

"We're concerned that safety and the environment will not be at the top of this group's priority list unless groups such as ours who represent experts as well as all road users are present" said ETSC director Jörg Beckmann.

Jos Dings, T&E director commented, "We are also surprised to see that neither the transport or environment committees of the Parliament (responsible for safety and emissions legislation respectively) are represented on the group. If the Commission is serious about 'clean' and 'safe' then we look forward to being invited to participate when CARS-21 meet for the first time in March".

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More information

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About ETSC

The European Transport Safety Council 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 26 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.

www.etsc.be

About T&E

The European Federation for Transport and environment is Europe's principal umbrella organisation for non-governmental organisations working for sustainable transport policies. T&E works at the European level to ensure that transport is environmentally responsible, economically sound and socially just. At present, T&E has some 40 member-organisations from 20 countries.

www.t-e.eu