



Press Statement on MEP's decision today on pedestrian protection

18 April 2002

The European Parliament's Regional Policy, Transport and Tourism Committee voted today on the voluntary agreement negotiated between the European Commission and the European car industry on safer car fronts for the protection of vulnerable road users.

ETSC welcomes the fact that MEPs have recognised the importance of this safety issue by insisting on the need for legislation. However, ETSC deeply regrets that this European Parliamentary committee has left the door open for the take up in legislation of other equivalent test methods (which do not yet exist) besides the well-researched and well-established EEVC pedestrian tests scientifically validated since 1993. MEPs agreed this loophole in a last minute compromise amendment following the strong lobby of the car industry. This decision will be voted upon in the June plenary.

ETSC continues to campaign for the highest level of protection in harmonized standards for pedestrians and cyclists, as required by the EU Treaty, and the need for car industry focus on meeting the state of the art EEVC pedestrian tests as soon as possible (saving estimate: 2000 lives annually; additional manufacturing cost estimate: 30 euros per car).

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