



European Automobile Clubs

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Press Release - Pressemitteilung - 3-12

Gigaliners and road safety – Car drivers and cyclists join forces – Joint Position from EAC European Automobile Clubs and ECF European Cyclists' Federation

Brussels, March 26th 2012 – The European umbrella associations of national cyclists' and automobile clubs have joined forces against the permission of longer lorries on European roads and today publish a joint position paper.

The action of the two associations is due to the rumored announcement by Siim Kallas of a re-interpretation of EU law by the Commission which would enable trials of cross border traffic of longer LHV's to be allowed. This could bring about a chain reaction. Lowered haulage prices in areas that have LHV's would force other countries to follow suit. Allowing cross border traffic therefore would force a Europe-wide allowance of Gigaliners. This could have serious implications for road safety.

"This cooperation may seem surprising at first. However, in the 21st century many citizens now cycle, drive their car and also walk. Regardless of the means of transport they choose, road safety should always be the first priority. Therefore, by calling attention to the risks of longer LHVs, EAC and ECF represent the interests of the majority of road users", EAC president Bernd Opolka and ECF president Manfred Neun unanimously comment their common efforts.

The paper sets out the risks of longer LHVs in four points:

- Road infrastructure adaption costs
- Blind spots
- Manoeuvrability and handling
- Traffic Flow and effects on other Road users

You can download the joint position paper following this link:

http://eac-web.eu/position_engl.html

<http://www.ecf.com/wp-content/uploads/EAC-and-ECF-Road-safety-and-96-53-EC.pdf>

For further questions please contact:

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About Us: Working together to improve mobility - That's the principle governing the work of the present five partners from Germany and Austria cooperating in the European Automobile Club Association (EAC). The EAC represents the interests of a total of 2.5 million people. As a partner for mobility, our vision is a Europe without borders where travel is easy. That requires harmonising traffic laws between the EU Member States and driving forward innovative technologies – to ensure greater safety and sustainability on the roads.