



European Automobile Clubs

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EU Commission provides new impetus to finally implement eCall for new cars – EAC calls for a retrofitting system for older cars

Berlin/Brussels 8.9.2011 – The umbrella associations of European automobile clubs EAC welcomes the EU Commission's first measures to have implemented eCall by 2015. "However, if eCall is to be a veritable automatic emergency system, it should be also applicable to older cars and should work even independently from cars.", Matthias Knobloch, General Secretary of the EAC, stressed out. „Therefore, the European Commission has to rethink some aspects."

„eCall was intended to be launched in 2009 in the first place. The fact that it has been delayed a number of times, highlights the difficulties of this project. The implementation in cars seems is an initial, rather simple step. However, beyond that, the European Commission will be required to define standards that enable retrofitting of older cars. The average age of cars in the European Union is rising constantly and, in the interest of road safety, as much older cars as possible have to be adjusted to eCall", annotates Matthias Knobloch. A button to trigger automatic emergency calls on the other hand should be examined very critically as it can easily be abused.

It is eCall's main objective to save lives. Therefore it would be better to enable automatic emergency calls outside of the car as well, e.g. via mobile phones. This should be implemented quickly and pragmatically without been drifted away by discussions about Galileo or other services.

Moreover, the EAC remains sceptical about the strict timetable of the Europewide implementation of eCall. Public discussions over the last years made clear that a request of the EU does not automatically lead to implementation. The EU has to assure an eCall system which is easy to integrate in the existing systems of European countries. The EAC welcomes the fact that the European Commission abandoned the aim of creating completely new structures.

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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.