

**eSafety Cocktail**  
**Strasbourg, 18 June 2008 17.30**  
**Speech of MEP Zita Gurmai**

Dear Guests, Dear Colleges, Dear Friends,

It's a great pleasure for me, as the rapporteur of the Intelligent Car Communication to share my thoughts with you here, today, only one day prior the European Parliament's debate and vote on the topic. Thanks to ERTICO (especially Carole Berthelot and Mr. Meyer), to eSafety Support (especially to Alessandro Carrotta) for supporting all this.

While preparing my report, I got to learn a lot about what role intelligent vehicles safety systems can play in making Europe's road safer, cleaner and more efficient. I am convinced that it is our common task and responsibility to make these devices known and available for the greatest public possible. What I learnt is that we are at the beginning of the process, so we got to be brave. This is why I'm grateful for you all for being here and for sharing your thoughts with me. This is how we can go forward. If you are interested in or would like to learn further details about eSafety issues, please do not hesitate to consult the materials, watch the film or ask the colleges who are present here, they will be happy to help you.

Now, I would like to say a big "thank you" to all who helped me in the preparation of the report with their ideas, with amendments and with administrative matters. Thank you, André (Vits), Juhani (Jaaskelainen) from the European Commission, Brian (Simpson), Gerard (Meehan), Matthew (Brown), Mr. Kusstascher, Mr. Koch, Mr. Marinescu, Malcolm (Harbour) from the European Parliament and everyone else.

I am a person who is concerned with environmental and safety issues. I would like to preserve the environment for our children (also for my two sons) and I think that Europe may not go on with countless traffic jams and 40 thousand senseless road fatalities per year! This is why I'm grateful that in the last couple of months I had the opportunity to work on these issues and to try to contribute to solving these problems by raising awareness (via meetings and articles) and creating some networking opportunities for the stakeholders. I'm glad that there are so many associations, companies, experts working in this field. I'm sure that our goals will soon be achieved with such an enthusiastic and competent team.

I have worked closely with the stakeholders in order to get a full picture of the intelligent vehicle devices, to see their potentials, what has already been achieved and what is that we still need to work on. During this process, I had the occasion to know more about the work of eSafety Forum, eSafety Aware, eSafety Support. I had the honour of participating at the ERTICO Partner Networking Dinner in Geneva and at the final workshop and conference of the AIDE (Adaptive Integrated Driver-vehicle Interface) in Gothenburg.

I learnt that intelligent vehicle systems contribute to reducing road fatalities, to reducing CO2 emissions - thus protecting the environment - and they have a great role in optimizing the transport of people and goods europe-wide. I tried to underline these points in my report while emphasizing what needs to be done in order to fully benefit from these devices and technologies. These systems should be affordable and widely known and their penetration should go hand in hand with the creation of the intelligent environment and the adequate vehicle-development. Also, an appropriate interface should be assured so that these devices can fully be employed and they do not influence the driver in a negative manner. The point here is the optimization of the driver-vehicle-road interaction.

Dear Guests, Dear Colleges,

Thank you once more for being here today. I hope that you will have the occasion tomorrow to follow the plenary debate on the First Intelligent Car report and I hope that my colleges will not hesitate to share their thoughts with us, just as they did during our work in the Transport and Tourism Committee. And I also hope that this is only the beginning of our work together and in a couple of years we, European citizens, will fully benefit from the advantages of the intelligent vehicle systems.

Now, I would like to ask my great colleges, to say some words to us. But at last, I would have a question: What is the factor that makes a car intelligent? Answer: that the driver is a woman. (nevetés!!!) Thank you for your attention.