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## **Commission backed e-Safety initiative launches "e-Emergency Call" and establishes eSafety Forum to improve European road safety**

***High-level representatives of automotive and telecommunications industries, ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems and Services) providers, infrastructure operators, the European Commission and other public authorities met in Brussels today to achieve consensus on the next steps on how to improve European road safety. Participants included Erkki Liikanen, Commissioner for Enterprise and the Information Society, ACEA Chairman and PSA Peugeot-Citroën President Jean-Martin Folz, ERTICO Chairman and FIA President Max Mosley and other industry and public authority representatives.***

The High-Level meeting discussed the Final Report of the eSafety Working Group, which was tabled at the meeting. The eSafety Working Group is a body consisting of some forty experts, established last April. The eSafety Working Group report contains 28 recommendations on how to improve road safety by the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) in new generation active safety systems – or Intelligent Integrated Safety Systems.

The recommendations of the Report cover a wide range of issues such as prioritising future RTD efforts, developing a test methodology and validation framework, developing assessment and test methodology for complex Human-Machine Interfaces, promoting in-vehicle emergency calls (e-Call) and reviewing vehicle legislation.

The next steps on the eSafety initiative include the preparation of a Commission Communication on "Information and Communications Technologies for Intelligent Vehicles", and the establishment of the eSafety Forum.

Erkki Liikanen said, "The forthcoming Communication will highlight our approach to try to improve the competitiveness of one of our main industrial sectors and contribute simultaneously to improving road safety for the benefit of all Europeans."

Speaking on his proposal to establish the eSafety Forum, Mr Liikanen said "We now have a common understanding with industry on the establishment of the eSafety Forum. The goal of the Forum will be to monitor the implementation of the Working Group recommendations, and to promote the development of open platforms, open system architecture and standard software, communications, service and human-machine interfaces to accelerate the development, deployment, and use of Intelligent Integrated Road Safety Systems."

Erkki Liikanen also welcomed the industry's proposal, announced by Mr Folz, to work together with other stakeholders towards the introduction of an emergency call system, called "e-Call", and making it a priority goal. If an accident occurs, an emergency call will be initiated automatically (based e.g. on airbag release or deceleration information), or manually. The call is then routed to the Public Service Answering Point. At the same time a voice call is also established. The industry is working on the introduction e-Call in the vehicles, but needs support from the public sector e.g. in establishing location-enhanced emergency services. The in-vehicle e-Call would build on the public-sector E-112 infrastructure and standard, but would give more accurate location information and additional data. Erkki Liikanen said, "I think that e-Call will be a good example of what the public and private industry can achieve by working together, and what can be achieved by combining regulation and voluntary measures."

Further information is available at:

[http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/programmes/esafety/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/programmes/esafety/index_en.htm)