



## eCall eNewsletter No.5 - July 2008

The eCall eNewsletter gives you a general update on eCall activities and events, and provides you with news coming from the stakeholders.

If there is anything that you would like to comment on this service, please send your feedback to [eCall@esafetysupport.org](mailto:eCall@esafetysupport.org).

➤ More information can be found on the [eCall Toolbox](#).

### Background

The pan-European in-vehicle emergency call system, "eCall", is a device that automatically calls the nearest emergency response centre in the event of a serious traffic accident. During the call the accurate location of the accident scene is transmitted to the centre, even if there is no voice connection, when for example all passengers have lost consciousness. Knowledge of the exact location reduces the response time of the rescue teams by 40 % in built-up areas and 50 % in rural environments. 2.500 lives could be saved in the European Union annually, and 15 % of serious injuries mitigated, if all European cars were equipped with eCall.

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## eCall standardisation work in a nutshell

**Creation date:** 30 June 2008

Important progress has been observed in the first half of 2008 in the standardisation work for eCall service.

At the beginning of the year the standardisation of the MSD content has been finalised: after the CEN ballot the eCall MSD has been approved as a CEN Technical Specification (CEN 15722), soon to be balloted as a full european standard.

Working Group CEN TC 278 WG 15 has also made progress in the standardisation of the "Public eCall Operational Requirements": two meetings have been organised, on 5 & 6 February and on 24&25 June in Brussels and a new one is planned for 15 & 16 of September.

Always under CEN TC 278 WG 15, a new Working Item has been opened and started drafting a new standard: the " Third Party Services supporting eCall, *TPS-eCall*", which is looking at the standardisation needs for those private service providers offering eCall solutions. In those cases, the vehicle will dial a private number to contact a call centre, which will filter the call and transmit the MSD and the call to the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in case of emergency. The editing group is looking into the necessary operational requirements, and in particular into the interfaces between the eCall Service Providers and the PSAPs. This editing group also met twice in the first half of the year, on March 10th and June 16th. Next meetings are foreseen on 15 & 16 September and 16 & 17 December.

Last but not least, a new Working item has been proposed and accepted: "Quality of Service Requirements for eCall"

On the ETSI MSG side, the selection of the eCall transmission technology is also close to being finalised. Several candidates have applied to 3GPP in order to test their technologies during this summer. At the end of this testing process, ETSI-3GPP will come up with a proposal on the technology that best suites the eCall requirements. This will be presented to the PSAPs expert groups by the beginning of Fall.

Each single committee covers crucial aspects of eCall and all together, the Working Groups give a concrete push forward to the implementation of the in-vehicle emergency call by compiling knowledge and exchanging experience. Should you, readers, be interested in joining one of them please do not hesitate to contact eSafety Support : [info@esafetysupport.org](mailto:info@esafetysupport.org)

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# The European Parliament in favor of eCall full-scale roll-out by 2010

Creation date: 19 June 2008

## The Intelligent Car Report was adopted almost unanimously

MEP Zita Gurmai's report on the European Commission's Intelligent Car Communication "Towards Europe-wide Safer, Cleaner and Efficient Mobility" has been discussed and voted on by the Plenary of the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 19 June. The report was adopted by a very large majority. Out of 428 Members of the Assembly, 417 voted in favour, five abstained and 6 voted against.

The key eSafety issues brought forward in the Commission's Intelligent Car Report are the Deployment of the pan-European emergency call system **eCall** by 2010 and the Acceleration of **Electronic Stability Control (ESC)** introduction in order to reach 100% availability of ESC by 2012. The report also urges stakeholders to adopt measures to improve **awareness and affordability** of intelligent vehicle systems, to work on ways to improve **safety of nomadic devices** and, on the environmental side, to develop a methodology for measuring the **impact of Information and communication technologies (ICTs) on CO2 emissions**.

In its report, the Transport and Tourism committee reaffirms its support for the implementation of the eCall system and urges the remaining Member States to sign the Memorandum of Understanding as soon as possible "preferably before the middle of 2008, in order to encourage the rapid introduction of this potentially life-saving feature". The report also stresses the need for the Commission to "further develop the regulatory framework for the full harmonization of the standard emergency call as well as for the eCall EU wide" as well as "the need for a definition by the European Telecommunications Standardisation Institute (ETSI) of an open standard for introducing eCall services at European level".

This vote is an extremely positive step forward in supporting the eCall implementation in Europe.



In the European Parliament premises in Strasbourg.

Left picture: The attendees listening to the speeches held on the evening before the actual vote. Right pictures: The high-level speakers. From left to right, Mr André Vits from Directorate General Information Society and the Media, Dr Hermann Meyer, CEO of ERTICO-ITS Europe, Mrs Zita Gurmai, Mr Brian Simpson, MEP and Mr Malcolm Harbour, MEP

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# The Slovak Republic signs the eCall MoU<sup>1</sup>

Creation date: 13 June 2008

On 13 June 2008, Mr I'Ubomír Vázny, the Slovakian Minister of Transport, Posts and Telecommunications signed the eCall MoU in the presence of Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for the Information Society and the Media.

Through this signature, the Slovak Republic committed itself to the timely implementation of the pan-European in-vehicle emergency call system know as eCall. "I am pleased that Slovakia gives its support to the deployment of this technology, which could save up to 2.500 lives a year", said Commissioner Reding at the signature event. "Slovakia's signature is a milestone, because now more than half of the EU Member States have committed to eCall. I call on the remaining EU Member States, as well as on other European countries, to take this signature as an example, and to follow suit. We cannot wait any longer: lives are at stake here", the Commissioner concluded.



Other EU Member States that have signed the MoU so far are: Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Spain and The Netherlands. Non-EU States Iceland, Norway and Switzerland belong to the signatories as well.

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<sup>1</sup> Please find at the bottom of this newsletter, the list of signatures which took place during the first half of the year

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## Calls for tender: eCall Impact Assessment Study and eCall VIN

Creation date: 12 June 2008

**Through these two calls for tender targeting eCall, the status of eCall as being one of the highest eSafety priorities to implement is affirmed.**

eSafety Support launched the **eCall VIN** decoder which deadline was 30 May 2008. The contractor has been selected and will fill in the urgent need of carrying out a study with the objective of developing a common open decoder of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) for all PSAPs. This will allow extracting the necessary information (i.e, vehicle model, type, model year) and, from there, to handle in the best way possible the emergency calls.

This study will be carried out in collaboration with the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA), which has already indicated its willingness to co-operate providing the necessary codes to elaborate a VIN decoder that could be used by all PSAPs in Europe. The work may be based on existing VIN decoders, enhancing them to provide the necessary functionalities to handle eCall. The allocated budget is 20,000€.

The second call for tender, issued by the European Commission, is the awaited **Impact Assessment study**. It aims to perform an updated analysis to support political decision making by assessing the direct and indirect effects, costs and benefits of the introduction of the pan-European-in-vehicle-emergency call in all new type-approved vehicles in the EU, as well as the possible impact of the different implementation strategies. The study will also come up with a first overview regarding liability/legal issues related to the introduction of eCall. **This Call is opened until 25 July and the allocated budget can not exceed 300.000 euros.**

For more information regarding the technical requirements, please refer to:

[http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/activities/esafety/studies/details/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/esafety/studies/details/index_en.htm)

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## 112 emergency number campaign hand in hand with eCall

Creation date: 03 June 2008

**eSafety Support was present during this important event to promote the European eCall initiative aiming at making Europe's roads safer for everyone, and highlight the importance of 112 implementation for an efficient eCall deployment across the EU.**

The eCall initiative aims at the introduction of eCall system in all vehicles in Europe as standard option from 2010 on. In case of a serious accident, the vehicle will dial automatically 112, sending at the same time its accurate position and other data of the accident to the Emergency Response Centre.

This explains the tight relation that exists between eCall and the implementation of 112, the free single European emergency number that all European citizens can refer to in case of emergency, especially when travelling across Europe. Its implementation will give a clear added-value to the emergency services in terms of efficiency and gain of time.

The high level speakers of this event; Commissioner Reding, stated that unfortunately still too few citizens are aware of the existence of 112. The official launch of the 112 website by Commissioner Reding and the Vice-President of the European Parliament, Ms Wallis, aims at improving this situation. EU legislation requires Member States to guarantee not only that all end users of fixed and mobile services can actually call 112 but also that the emergency services can directly locate the distress call. The first

step is of course, and this is also a national responsibility, to ensure that citizens are informed about the existence and the purpose of 112.

The official launch of the website entirely dedicated to 112, which aims at raising EU citizens' awareness towards this unique phone number. The exhibition organised within the Berlaymont's premises gave the participants an overview of the initiatives taken in various Member States and featured best practices on 112.

eSafety Support distributed information material focused on eCall and projected the eCall video explaining clearly to the attendees which benefits eCall has for the European citizens.



➤ For more information, please have a look at the new 112 website: [www.ec.europa.eu/112](http://www.ec.europa.eu/112)

## Important industrial players signed the eCall Memorandum of Understanding: the case of Vodafone and Infineon

### Vodafone

The signature of the MoU makes Vodafone the first Mobile Network Operator to put its signature under the MoU.

It is a huge step forward as other important industrial players such as NXP semiconductors have also expressed their interest to sign. With their signature, these companies commit themselves to actively supporting the timely implementation and deployment of eCall, the pan-European in-vehicle emergency call system.

Commissioner Reding recently reiterated the importance of eCall deployment with the following statement “eCall can save up to 2500 lives on European roads each year and mitigate injuries in 15% of all serious crashes”. She added “I call on other industrial majors and public authorities to sign up the eCall as soon as possible. We cannot wait any longer: lives are stake here”.

### Infineon Technologies

Infineon Technologies is the first semiconductor maker to sign an MoU with the European Commission to advance the development of intelligent emergency call systems.

The move adds momentum to eCall, a pan-European proposal launched by the Commission with the goal of encouraging EU member states as well as automakers, mobile operators, service businesses and automotive supply businesses to collaborate on the development of an integrated, automatic accident alert system for automobiles. The European Commission hopes that eCall will radically lower the number of accident victims in Europe and help to bring down accident-related costs.

The eCall system uses the CAN interface (Controller Area Network) to collect data from safety components in cars - airbags, rollover sensors, etc. If there is an accident, the data are sent to an emergency call centre via a cell phone module along with location data from a GPS navigation module. The information is automatically converted into plain text, which is displayed on the screen in the emergency call centre.

Dr. Wolfgang Ziebart, President and CEO of Infineon Technologies, commented as follows on the signing of the MOU: *"With our competency in semiconductor solutions for automobiles as well as communications, I believe that Infineon is in an outstanding position to be ready to begin volume production for Europe's eCall emergency call system according to plan, within the two-year timeframe. We're already shipping initial samples to partners in the automotive industry for large-scale field testing."*

Further information is available at [www.infineon.com](http://www.infineon.com)

To see the exhaustive list of signatures, please refer to the bottom of this Newsletter or have a look at :

[http://www.esafetysupport.org/en/ecall\\_toolbox/memorandum\\_of\\_understanding\\_mou/](http://www.esafetysupport.org/en/ecall_toolbox/memorandum_of_understanding_mou/)

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## Vodafone's proposal: supply dedicated emergency call SIMS for cars

**Creation date:** 30 May 2008

### **Vodafone is ready to supply dedicated emergency call SIMS for cars**

eCall is part of the EU Commission's eSafety initiative aiming to decrease the death toll on roads by accelerating the rescue chain. Under the Commission's initiative, all new vehicles in Europe are to be fitted with eCall from 2010 on. Vodafone strongly supports the EU Commission's efforts and has recently provided a public demonstration of how mobile networks can help to save lives in the event of a car accident. Vodafone has also been contributing actively to the eCall standardisation process for a long time.

In the proposed solution of Vodafone, eCall is built around a SIM and a GSM/UMTS modem embedded into the vehicles' electronics. This SIM is really a SIM chip designed to automotive industry specifications and engineered as a surface-mounted device (SMD). The eCall device containing the chip is connected to the internal sensors (e.g. the airbags), which cause an emergency call to 112 to be automatically initiated when a crash is detected. The eCall connection then serves to transport vital crash data such as vehicle position and vehicle identification data to the closest public safety answering point (PSAP). The SIM's mobile number allows the PSAP to directly contact the vehicle and its occupants, ideally enabling the PSAP to crosscheck and dispatch rescue services as required under the individual circumstances.

According to this proposal, Vodafone Germany would provide the SIM chip and the mobile number together with unlimited eCall usage throughout the car's lifetime against a one-off upfront charge. Initially the SIM would be blocked for all other traffic (voice, SMS, data). This set-up does not require any relationship between Vodafone and the end customer (the buyer of the car). As the SIM has all the functionalities of a regular SIM, it can conceivably be used to offer value added services as well: bCall (breakdown calls), calls to service hotlines, telematics services, navigation and many more.

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# EC's efforts in eCall deployment earn ADAC recognition

**Creation date:** 01 February 2008

The "Gelbe Engel" award was presented to Commissioner Viviane Reding on 17 January 2008.

German automobile club ADAC has recognised the European Commission as a winner of its annual "Gelbe Engel" (Yellow Angel) award for its efforts and commitment to the introduction of the pan-European emergency call system eCall.

Mrs Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media, personally accepted the second place honours in the category of "Innovation and the Environment" at the Gelbe Engel awards ceremony in Munich on 17 January 2008.

The prestigious Gelbe Engel awards are awarded by the ADAC management and its members in areas such as Innovation and Environment, favorite car, and best brand.

For more information, please visit

[http://www.adac.de/adactv/adac\\_mehr/Gelber\\_Engel\\_2008.asp?ComponentID=206127&SourcePageID=204031](http://www.adac.de/adactv/adac_mehr/Gelber_Engel_2008.asp?ComponentID=206127&SourcePageID=204031)



Commissioner Viviane Reding accepts the "Gelbe Engel" award on behalf of the European Commission

## eCall Memorandum of Understanding: the signatures which took place in 2008

- 03.03.2008: Mr Carlos De Alpoim Vieira Barbosa, on behalf of Automovel Club de Portugal
- 05.03.2008: Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Ziebart on behalf of Infineon Technologies AG
- 16.04.2008: Mr Pierre-Enric Steiger, on behalf of Björn Steiger Stiftung.  
: Mr Demir Rakanovic, on behalf of Neonseven SpA
- 09.06.2008: Mr Iacopo Bini Smaghi, on behalf of Altea
- 13.06.2008: Minister l'Ubomir Vazny on behalf of the Ministry of Transport, Posts & Telecommunications of the Slovak Republic

To see the exhaustive list please follow this link:

[http://www.esafetysupport.org/en/ecall\\_toolbox/memorandum\\_of\\_understanding\\_mou/](http://www.esafetysupport.org/en/ecall_toolbox/memorandum_of_understanding_mou/)