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European Automobile Manufacturers Association's Road Safety Charter Signature Text

Signatory Type: Association

Profile

ACEA represents the thirteen major European car, truck and bus manufacturers, all key players in the global automotive market. While traffic has tripled in the last 30 years, casualties in road accidents have halved. The automotive industry has contributed significantly to this achievement through continuous improvement of the active and passive safety of cars, trucks and buses.

Indispensable to this success are a long-standing innovative tradition and an unceasing commitment by the automotive industry to sustainable, safe and environmental friendly mobility. The European car industry also participates actively in the EU Community's eSafetyAware initiative, putting industry's full weight behind the implementation of a new generation of road safety tools.

The ACEA member companies - BMW Group, DAF, DaimlerChrysler, FIAT, Ford of Europe, General Motors Europe, MAN Nutzfahrzeuge, Porsche, PSA Peugeot Citroen, Renault, Scania, Volkswagen and Volvo Trucks – produce 18 million vehicles per year in Europe. They provide direct jobs to 1.2 million Europeans and indirectly support 10 million more.

Commitment

The European automobile industry pledges to progressively continue to equip passenger cars and trucks with seatbelt warning systems. As a result of this, an overwhelming majority of new vehicles will be fitted with this important life-saving tool by 2010.

In particular the installation of seatbelts has contributed to an 80% decrease in fatal or serious injuries in road accidents in the past three decades. However, many serious injuries still find their origin in not using seatbelts. Warning car users not to forget to put their seatbelts on is an effective way to combat this trend.

Secondly, European manufacturers will progressively build coaches with electronically controlled stabilising systems. This will result in all coaches being equipped accordingly in 2010.

The European car industry will communicate a status report regularly on the progress made on both commitments.

