

FIA EuroCouncil

Copenhagen Declaration on Road Safety

The European motoring and touring clubs, members of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), together comprising the FIA Eurocouncil, representing within Europe 34 million motorists, issued the following declaration at its annual meeting on 4th of June 2009 in Copenhagen, Denmark:

The European motoring clubs believe that:

- Mobility is a prerequisite for the well-being and economic prosperity of all citizens in Europe – it should be equally safe for all citizens wherever they find themselves in Europe;
- Roads are the life lines of mobility and economic activity in Europe, upon which investors and companies build their growth. In this time of massive financial support policies, investment in improving the road infrastructure networks Europe wide, nationally and locally could reap multiple immediate benefits for employment, trade, the environment and most immediately road safety
- High level commitments shown by European governments towards road safety have paid off as European roads have become much safer over the last decade;
- Road safety needs strong leadership, clear objectives and precise targets;
- Stakeholder alliances are invaluable – road safety stakeholders should unite their efforts to increase the effectiveness of their actions;
- Road safety must be a shared responsibility: safe drivers in safe vehicles on safe roads within a safe systems approach;
- Roads must be self explaining (reducing the likelihood of a crash occurring) and forgiving (providing protection when an accident occurs) – safer road infrastructure could reduce road deaths by as much as 80 per cent over the decades ahead;
- Benchmarking and Europe-wide assessment coupled with consumer information and awareness raising activities foster road safety – instilling the concept of competition by identifying both excellence and failings provides a good motivation to push stakeholders to do better.
- Awareness raising alerts all road users to their responsibilities for protecting their own safety as well as their rights to safe mobility

Therefore, the European motoring clubs demand that:

- Governments should further strengthen their efforts to make roads safer and pursue relentlessly the fight against unnecessary carnage on Europe's roads;
- The European Commission should further develop good and detailed harmonised statistical information upon which to base sound European road safety policies;
- A European-wide safe road infrastructure programme should make safe road design a national priority;
- An appropriate share of the income of authorities generated through motoring taxes and charges should be spent on making roads safer – financial incentives should be applied where appropriate to foster road safety, getting safer cars, safer roads and safer drivers;
- Advanced driver training should be promoted as well as the implementation of second stage driver training;
- A Single Europe should have a common European High Way Code where traffic regulations are harmonised Europe-wide;

- Consumer information and awareness raising activities around road safety should be fostered Europe wide;
- An international exchange of best practices should be promoted as more than 85% of the worldwide casualties (and 96% of child deaths) occur in low and middle income countries.

The FIA European clubs hereby call upon the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council to guarantee that road safety remains, in the interest of all citizens in Europe, an agenda priority to be discussed regularly in European summits by Heads of State..

Werner Kraus
Chairman, FIA Eurocouncil