

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

Cc

Violeta Bulc, Commissioner for Transport

Elżbieta Bieńkowska, Commissioner for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Vytienis Andriukaitis, Commissioner for Health & Food Safety

Brussels, 25 October 2016

Dear President Juncker,

On 31 March this year, the European Commission published the first official European statistics on the number of people seriously injured in road collisions in the European Union.

The figure of 135,000 seriously injured people in 2014 reflects the enormous toll that road collisions still take on individuals, their families and, of course, health services.

The majority of these collisions are preventable; the severity of many could be reduced by measures such as better pedestrian protection design on new vehicles and ensuring seat belt use by all passengers.

As representatives of public health associations, health workers and patients from across the European Union, we call on you to urgently follow up on the publication of serious injury data with a target to reduce their number - as well as a strategy containing measures to achieve this.

As the European Union has sole competence on vehicle safety standards, the planned update to vehicle safety rules is also a crucial next step. We urge you to bring forward new, more stringent standards for vehicle pedestrian protection, as well as mandatory fitting of automated emergency braking, seat belt reminders for all passenger seats, intelligent speed assistance and ensure that it is possible to fit an alcohol interlock to a vehicle interface. We also urge you to bring forward a standard to improve the safety of lorries in terms of front crash protection and improved direct vision to help reduce the catastrophic instances of lorries colliding with vulnerable road users.

Our understanding is that proposals both for a serious injury target and for new vehicle safety standards have been subject to delays and are now long overdue. We urge you to personally take responsibility for ensuring that there are no further delays.

Yours sincerely,



Nina Renshaw, Secretary General, European Public Health Alliance

**Co-Signatories**

**Global/European**

European Public Health Alliance, Secretary General, Nina Renshaw



European Public Health Association, President, Professor Martin McKee CBE MD DSc FMedSci

European Public Health Association, Executive Director, Dineke Zeegers Paget

International Council on Alcohol, Drugs and Traffic Safety (ICADTS) President, Kathy Stewart

Eurocare, Secretary General, Mariann Skar

International Research Council on Biomechanics of Injury, President, Ciaran Simms, Professor, Trinity College Dublin

### **Members of the European Parliament with a Medical Background**

Dominique Riquet, MEP (Former Surgeon)

Olga Sehnalova, MEP (Former Doctor in Intensive Care)

### **National Experts**

Dr. Anna Rita Bucchi, Manager of the Surveillance and Health Promotion Service, Regional Health Department, Umbria, Italy

Dr. Andrea Costanzo, Professor in Orthopaedics and Traumatology at University La Sapienza (and President of Italian Society of Road accident Traumatology)

Dr. Bea Hemmen, MD PhD, Maastricht University Medical Centre

Dr. Herman Holtslag, M.D. Ph.D. Academic Medical Centre Amsterdam, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine

Dr. Heiko Johannsen, PhD Accident Research Unit, Hannover University, Germany

Dr. Antonio Hernando Lorenzo, Critical Care Specialist, Madrid, Spain

Elaine Mackay, PhB, Association for the Advancement of Automotive Medicine, Co-Chair, International Injury Scaling Committee (1990-2005), now member of International Research Council on Biomechanics of Injury

Professor Murray Mackay, Past President of the International Research Council on Biomechanics of Injury

Dr. Charles Mercier-Guyon, secretary of the medical council, French Road Safety Association

Dr. Cathal O'Donnell; Health Service Executive, Ireland, Medical Director National Ambulance Service,

Dr. Dietmar Otte, Accident Research Unit, Hannover University, Germany, PhD

Dr. Catherine Pérez, Public Health Agency of Barcelona (ABSP), Head of the department of Health Information Systems

Dr. Markku Sainio, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Chief Physician, adjunct Professor in Neurology



Professor Emanuele Scafato, President of Italian Society of Alcoholology and Vice President of the European Federation of Addiction Societies

Dr. Kai-Uwe Schmitt, Traumatologist, Working Group on Accident Mechanics, Zurich, Secretary of International Research Council on Biomechanics of Injury

Dr. Kaarlo Simojoki, A-Clinic Foundation, Medical Director

Dr. Damien Subit, PhD, Institute of Human Biomechanics Georges Charpak, Arts et Metiers – ParisTech, France,

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Dr. Philippe Vezin, Director Biomechanics and Impact Mechanics Laboratory, IFSTARR (French Institute for Science and Technology)