



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Directorate C – Land
The Director (acting)

Brussels
MOVE.C.2/

Mr Antonio Avenoso
Executive Director
European Transport Safety Council
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Subject: Establishing an EU Road Safety Agency

Dear Mr Avenoso,

Thank you for your letter received on 17 June 2026, sent on behalf of several European civil society organisations committed to road safety and addressed to President Ursula von der Leyen. She has asked me to respond directly to you.

In your letter, you call on the European Commission to consider establishing an EU Road Safety Agency as part of its forthcoming financial and legislative planning. You highlight the need for an EU agency in the context of developing and deploying partially and fully automated vehicles, as well as addressing related issues that exceed national regulatory capacities. You also emphasise the importance of such agency in enhancing the global competitiveness of the EU automotive industry.

Indeed, in the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy ⁽¹⁾, the Commission committed to exploring options to better support safe, smart, and sustainable road transport operations, including through existing or new structures. A feasibility study completed in 2024 assessed various organisational scenarios, pointing to potential benefits of strengthening EU-level capacity in road transport. This is particularly relevant in areas such as digitalisation, connectivity, and automation, which are among key factors for competitiveness, investment, and road safety, and where current technical capacity is limited at both national and EU levels.

In its recent road safety implementation report ⁽²⁾, the Commission committed to accelerating the deployment of advanced safety systems and supporting the transition to

⁽¹⁾https://transport.ec.europa.eu/document/download/be22d311-4a07-4c29-8b72-d6d255846069_en?filename=2021-mobility-strategy-and-action-plan.pdf

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=COM:2026:77:FIN>

connected and automated vehicles. Additionally, the Commission is facilitating the creation of cross-border testbeds, enabling large-scale pre-deployments of autonomous vehicles for both passenger and goods transport under a single cross-border permitting scheme. On 8 June 2026, 18 EU Member States signed a declaration of intent to harmonise the deployment of automated vehicles in their territories. The aim to foster and develop the potential benefits of automated vehicles for road safety, and improved mobility solutions for all in an accessible and sustainable manner. ⁽³⁾ This declaration provides important political support for the flagship initiative to develop a large-scale, cross-border testbed under the European Automotive Action Plan ⁽⁴⁾.

The Commission's broader assessment of future needs is ongoing. In its road safety implementation report it recognises that the EU road safety stakeholder ecosystem is not yet equipped to fully realise the significant road safety benefits promised by advances in vehicle automation technologies. While the mentioned automotive action plan identifies this area as a crucial component of the EU's future competitiveness agenda, the institutional framework beyond trials remains to be established. In this context, and when reflecting on governance issues, the Commission has also confirmed that it will continue to consider the need for changes to EU governance structures concerning the safe introduction of connected and automated vehicles.

The Commission is also currently evaluating the type-approval and market surveillance procedures laid down in the Vehicle Approval Regulation ⁽⁵⁾. Based on the outcome of this evaluation, the Commission may propose a review of the EU legal framework for motor vehicles if it is found not to be anymore fit for the purpose to meet the needs of connected and automated vehicles.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Electronically signed

Claire DEPRE

CC:

Ellen Townsend, Policy Director, European Transport Safety Council
Laurianne Krid, CEO, European Cyclists' Federation
André Sobczak, Secretary General, Eurocities
Barbara Stoll, Director, Clean Cities Campaign
William Todts, Executive Director, Transport & Environment
Karen Vancluysen, Secretary General, POLIS
Geert van den Waeg, President, International Federation of Pedestrians

⁽³⁾ [Joint Declaration of Intent on large-scale cross-border testbeds for autonomous vehicles](#)

⁽⁴⁾ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/document/download/89b3143e-09b6-4ae6-a826-932b90ed0816_en?filename=Communication%20-%20Action%20Plan.pdf

⁽⁵⁾ Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles (OJ L 151, 14.6.2018, p. 1).