Mobility 2014

2014 European Parliament elections
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Ahead of the European elections, European motorists call on decision-makers to:

- Ensure smooth development of future car connectivity, while fully respecting motorists’ freedom of choice and safeguarding conditions for effective competition in the aftermarket;
- Create the right conditions for the deployment of cleaner vehicle technologies and fostering user awareness via dedicated European projects;
- Offer life-long learning opportunities for all road users, with specific focus on vulnerable groups;
- Nominate a yearly road safety ambassador to support EU road safety policy;
- Ensure that motoring remains affordable via liberalised aftermarket for visible spare parts and stricter control for odometer tampering;
- Invest European funds and earmark taxation revenue to properly maintain the road infrastructure to safeguard Europe’s growth and high levels of road safety.
Driving future mobility

The FIA calls on decision-makers to:

• Ensure smooth development of future car connectivity, while fully respecting motorists’ freedom of choice and safeguarding privacy for competitive effect in the aftermarket;

• Create the right conditions for the deployment of cleaner vehicle technologies and fostering user awareness via dedicated European projects.

In the future, technological developments will allow for the optimisation of personal mobility and improve the overall efficiency in European transport.

‘Connected cars’ should safeguard choice & safety

Very soon, cars will be online and transferring data about their environment to the motoring community. To deliver its full potential, connected vehicle technology requires a large network of vehicles equipped with similar, or at least interoperable, communication systems. The European Parliament should make sure future legislation in ITS solutions will give priority to aspects of deployment.

Embrace cleaner car technologies

The lack of accessible and consistent information on the capabilities and benefits of alternatively fueled vehicles is a major barrier for consumer uptake. Policymakers have a role to play in ensuring a progressive roll out of the technologies, which will foster sustainability.

Consumers need:
- Clear and consistent information on the environmental potential of different fuel types and consistent information on fuel-to-car compatibility.
- Possibilities to test the different technologies on the market.

Road safety and the environment

The FIA calls on decision-makers to:

• Offer life-long learning opportunities for all road users, with specific focus on vulnerable groups;

• Nominate a yearly road safety ambassador to support EU road safety policy.

There is a need to make mobility even safer: our vision should be to have five star drivers in five star cars on five stars roads. In the FIA, we believe that “vision zeros” (zero road fatalities) could be an achievable goal with the right policy support.

Improved driver training & quicker rescue

Traffic education should be provided from a young age, to ensure that, even now drivers, have advanced knowledge of safe driving, road rules and defensive tactics. The most dangerous period for drivers in the first year of driving. One in five young people go on to have a collision in the first six months of passing their test. European policymakers should encourage Member States to put in place adequate training modules in these critical first months, so as to support a decrease in fatalities.

To deliver its full potential, connected vehicle technology requires a large network of vehicles equipped with similar, or at least interoperable, communication systems. The European Parliament should make sure future legislation in ITS solutions will give priority to aspects of deployment.

1) Data Protection: European motorists should have full knowledge about what data is being used, by whom and for what purpose.

2) Consumers’ free choices: Consumers’ freedom of choice between service providers for repair and maintenance and future additional services should be guaranteed.

3) Fair competition: For consumers to have free choice, independent operators need non-discriminatory access to vehicle data, guaranteed by the means of a standardised, open-in-vehicle telematics platform.

Increased road safety

The FIA calls on decision-makers to:

• Protect key services of the emergency services, like the automatic emergency call system (eCall);

• Mandate governments to improve the performance of any systems available.

There are 72 million motorized two-wheelers on the roads today. Motorcyclists are 73 times more likely than motorists to die in a collision. This is not a sustainable way to travel and the FIA calls on decision-makers to take responsibility for the safety of the motorists and motorcyclists alike.

Road Safety Ambassador

A yearly European Road Safety Ambassador should embody the fight for increased road safety in the European Union. The ambassador would be expected to increase the overall awareness of road safety to a broader audience. This role could be taken on by celebrities, such as famous Formula One drivers, on a voluntary basis.

The FIA calls on decision-makers to:

• Ensure that motorists remain affordable via liberalised aftermarket for visible spare parts and stricter control for odometer tampering;

• Invest European funds and earmark taxation revenue to properly maintain the road infrastructure to safeguard European growth and high levels of road safety.

A monopolistic situation still exists in some member states on visible spare parts (such as bumpers or hubcaps). This leads to higher repair costs for consumers. A number of countries have liberalised their markets for visible spare parts, which proves to have a positive cost reduction both for consumers and for European car manufacturers. However, a final decision of European level is still pending.

Transport infrastructure: the backbone of European prosperity

The average European household spends 13% of its income on transport, almost as much as is spent on food and non-alcoholic drinks.

Affordable: ensuring a fully functional aftermarket

Over the lifetime of a vehicle, repair and maintenance cost is as high as the purchase cost. Measures ensuring the European car fleet is maintained at an affordable price is crucial for citizens, safety and the environment alike.

Taking into account the dire financial situation and increasing costs for car ownership in Europe, the FIA proposes simple measures to improve affordability for car owners. Out of the significant change that car taxation brings to European Member States, only a tiny fraction is re-invested in road infrastructure. More of this revenue should be allocated to facilitating mobility.

Fair competition:

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Around 2% of GDP is lost in serious road crashes. [Eurostat]

The average European household spends 13% of its income on transport, almost as much as is spent on food and non-alcoholic drinks. [Eurostat]
Who are we?
FIA Region I represents 37 million consumers through its 108 Touring and Motoring Clubs in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Our members are motorists, public transport users, pedestrians and tourists. For their benefit, we aim to ensure that mobility is safe, affordable, sustainable and efficient.

Email: info.region1@fia.com
Website: www.mobility2014.eu