

CLEPA position on eCall and potential additional services

CLEPA fully supports the EU policy orientations to lower road traffic casualties, in particular the Road Safety Action Programme 2011-2020 targeting to halve the overall number of road fatalities by 2020.

CLEPA believes that the integrated approach with actions on infrastructure, vehicle and driver behaviour is the way forward to improve the situation. One measure proposed by the EU Commission and fully supported by CLEPA is ITS technologies deployment as called for in Directive 2010/40/EU, in which development of harmonized provisions for an interoperable EU-wide eCall is a priority action.

CLEPA considers that eCall systems should be made mandatory on new type of vehicles (M1 and N1) by 2015. The Type Approval process ensuring standardisation and inter-operability is the way forward. Simultaneously an EU wide compatibility must be ensured so that the consumers can enjoy eCall systems safety benefits in all Member States. It is essential that the EU Member States agree on the specifications as soon as possible and provide the necessary infrastructures to allow field testing (at least a year) of the EU harmonized system before the rollout date of the service.

The Automotive Suppliers, have developed since 10 years eCall systems with associated services now satisfactorily operating on vehicles. Such systems, called "Third Party services Supported eCall (TPS eCall)" should be considered as an optional service in the Type-Approval in addition the intended EU harmonized system "Pan EU eCall" using the 112 emergency call. And when a TPS system cannot be used, the vehicle driver must be able to use the Pan EU eCall system. Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) should be able to communicate with the Pan EU eCall service and the TPS providers alike. eCall providers and PSAPs should agree on appropriate communication processes

In addition, the in-vehicle eCall architecture should be open for implementation of different services, allowing consumers' freedom of choice and open and non-discriminatory access by different actors (such as service providers and repairers) willing to propose additional services and applications. This may be done using the mandatory eCall functionalities (e.g. location capabilities, processing, communication modules) provided that security and reliability are ensured.