

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES

Ref. 17-3906

27 October 2017

SUBCOMMITTEE I ON FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS

EEA EFTA COMMENT

on the revision of the Vehicle General Safety Regulation and the Pedestrian Safety Regulation

1. The EEA EFTA States (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) welcome and support the Commission initiative to consider new equipment and features to become mandatory in new vehicles in order to reduce fatalities and injuries in road traffic as part of the revision of the Vehicle General Safety Regulation and the Pedestrian Safety Regulation¹. Making the most of advances in vehicle technology is an important element of the systematic and continuous work to save lives on our roads.
2. The EEA EFTA States consider that priority should be given to measures that can tackle the main causes of deaths and injuries on our roads, and with regard to the human factor in accidents, would highlight measures to assist drivers to maintain the speed limit (i.e. intelligent speed assistance), not drink and drive (i.e. alcohol interlock device interface standardisation) and wear safety belts (i.e. safety belt reminders).
3. Furthermore, the EEA EFTA States consider that priority should be given to measures that can avoid, prevent or mitigate the most frequent types of accidents, namely head on collisions, driving off the road and accidents with pedestrians, which together account for the vast majority of all fatal accidents². Such measures include autonomous emergency braking, lane keeping assistance, trucks and buses front-end design and direct vision, driver drowsiness or distraction monitoring, pedestrian and cyclist detection and head impact on a-pillars and front widescreen.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-revision-vehicle-general-safety-regulation-and-pedestrian-safety-regulation_en

² 85% in Norway