

European Commission
Directorate General for Energy and Transport
Road Safety Unit
"Blind Spot"
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„Blind Spot“

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FITTING BLIND-SPOT MIRRORS ON EXISTING TRUCKS

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen!

The Austrian Road Safety Board would like to thank for the invitation for consultation and states the following:

1. The Austrian Road Safety Board thinks that the retrofitting of blind spot mirrors on existing trucks is cost-effective, mainly because of the long life cycle of trucks. However, without a scientific investigation it is very difficult to estimate to what degree the benefits of retrofitting existing trucks built in or after 1998 outweigh the costs. Only an in-depth study involving a large number of accidents could clarify which of them could be avoided. As far as we concerned such a study is not available at present.
2. The Austrian Road Safety Board agrees with the approach in general, including the discussion of alternative solutions.
3. The Austrian Road Safety Board thinks that every commercial motor vehicle should feature state-of-the-art mirror systems. Experience shows that manufacturers often tend to overestimate technical difficulties when implementing safety measures required by legislation.
4. The initiative should be extended to class VI mirrors, which also should retrofit on all HGV and busses. Generally, blind spot cameras should be accepted as an alternative, if they cover the respective field of vision. As a trade-off, many of



these camera systems will also include rear view cameras, which solve a problem that is not covered by any mirror system.

Yours sincerely,
Austrian Road Safety Board



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