



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

**Siim KALLAS**

Vice-President of the European Commission

## **Intelligent Transport Systems**

**Adoption of the Proposal for a Decision on the deployment of the interoperable EU-wide eCall**

**Check Against Delivery**  
**Seul le texte prononcé fait foi**  
**Es gilt das gesprochene Wort**

Press Conference / Brussels

**13 June 2013**

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

When an accident happens, every minute counts. If emergency services are informed immediately and if they know exactly where the accident happened, they can often prevent deaths and ensure that injuries do not leave any lasting damage.

To ensure this, today the Commission has adopted two proposals to ensure that, by October 2015, all new models of passenger cars and vans will be equipped with the 112 eCall system.

The system will make an automatic call in case of an accident, even if the driver is unconscious. And the emergency centres will be able to handle these calls efficiently. They will be able to send an ambulance to the accident site much more quickly than they can now.

Studies show that around 50% of deaths occur within minutes, 30% within a couple of hours and 20% during the following days and weeks. Thanks to eCall, emergency response times will be reduced by 40% in urban areas and by up to 50% in the countryside.

eCall will also speed up the clearing of the crash site. This will reduce traffic congestion and the risk of secondary accidents.

eCall is only activated in case of an accident. It then sends an automatic message telling the rescue crews which type of car it is, which type of fuel it uses and the precise location and direction. This is particularly important on motorways and in tunnels.

The driver will still have the choice to use another emergency call system, offered by car manufacturers or other.

But we want to make the 112 eCall system mandatory, so that we can ensure that it will remain operational also when the other system does not work, for example because there is no coverage or because the car-owner has not renewed the subscription.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last year, 28 000 persons were killed and 1.5 million were injured on EU roads. I have said before that every death on EU roads is one too many. eCall has the potential to save as many as 2 500 lives a year. It will help us to achieve our goal of halving the overall number of road deaths in the European Union by 2020.

Thank you.