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When looking in reverse is farsighted

The Parliament calls for rear-facing child seats voting for the Report on European road safety 2011-2020

Today in the Plenary session in Strasbourg the European Parliament adopted the Report on European Road Safety 2011-2020 (A7-0264/2011), drafted by the MEP Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Vice-chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism.

The report is a response to the Commission Communications entitled "Towards a European road safety area: policy orientations on road safety 2011-2020".

ANEC is very pleased that in the areas for action the report includes a call for the use of rear-facing child seats for children up to the age of three travelling in vehicles (paragraph 103 of the report).

Several [studies](#) have demonstrated that rearward-facing restraints offer a higher level of safety over forward-facing restraints to children at least up to the age of four years and would have prevented many fatalities had their use been more widespread all over Europe. The [ANEC study](#) on US, Swedish and UK data showed that children in forward-facing seats suffered head, neck, chest and abdominal injuries in circumstances in which a rearward facing restraint would have provided much better protection. In Scandinavia, they have used large rearward-facing seats for many years and have compelling accident evidence that such seats offer good protection.

ANEC Secretary General Stephen Russell welcomes the report and remarked that the objective of a 60 % reduction in the number of children under the age of 14 killed in road accidents in the EU by comparison with 2010, would be reachable (at least for age groups up to four years of age) if all children travelled in rearward-facing child restraints as Swedish children have done for 20 years.

ENDS

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