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Mr Per-Ove Engelbrecht
European Commission
Head of Unit, DG Enterprise
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels

ANEC2004/TRAF/005

Brussels, 9 February 2004

Request for Participation in the European Commission's Monitoring Committee on Pedestrian Protection

Dear Mr Engelbrecht,

We are writing to you to on behalf of ANEC, the European consumer voice in standardisation, and ETSC, the European Transport Safety Council.

ANEC was established in 1995 as an international non-profit association to defend consumer interests in European standardization and to counterbalance the industry view while aiming at a high level of protection. ANEC co-ordinates a network of more than 200 consumer experts across the fifteen EU Member States as well as Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) is an independent non-profit organisation dedicated to the reduction of the number and severity of transport crash injuries in Europe. It represents 26 transport safety non-governmental organisations throughout Europe and brings together Europe's leading independent experts in vehicle and traffic safety.

As a first point, we would like to convey the concern of ANEC and ETSC about the unbalanced representation in the Monitoring Committee dealing with Pedestrian Safety Directive. It seems that a vast number of car manufacturers and other industry related-stakeholders are allowed to participate in this meeting, as opposed to a very limited representation on behalf of consumers. The European Consumers' Organisation BEUC has been invited to participate only in the second meeting of this Monitoring Committee. ANEC and ETSC have not been contacted at all. Moreover we are also concerned about the lack of transparency of the process as no consumer or safety organisation was even invited to attend the first meeting of the Monitoring Committee.

We would like to express our wish to participate in the forthcoming meetings of the European Commission's Monitoring Committee on Pedestrian Protection. Both ANEC and ETSC have specific expertise in the issue of pedestrian safety, and ANEC (through Consumers International) also participates in the meetings of UNECE P29 and GRSP where pedestrian safety is also under discussion.

We feel that the participation of ANEC and ETSC in the meetings of the Monitoring Committee would serve to ensure that the consumer and safety dimension is taken into full account in this important policy area.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Gottlobe Fabisch
Secretary-General, ANEC

Dr Jörg Beckmann
Executive Director, ETSC