



A SOUND INVESTMENT

LONG-TERM, CHALLENGING STANDARDS TO REDUCE NOISE FROM VEHICLES

Traffic noise is one of the most widespread environmental problem in the European Union, we therefore welcome the European Commission's revision of the existing Vehicle Noise Directive (70/157/EEC) which adopts tighter noise emission limits for vehicles.

There is strong evidence that noise affects the health of one in three EU citizens¹ and that steps to tackle noise from vehicles, including tyres, are overwhelming cost effective (research shows that benefits outweigh costs by more than 30 times²). Accordingly, we urge the European Parliament and Council to agree a package of amendments to the Directive that strengthen the Commission's proposal (2011/0409 COD) by:

1. Accelerating the introduction of the revised standards, with step 1 to be enforced in 2013 and step 2 in 2015;
2. Setting out a pathway for further noise reductions, by introducing a further step to enter into force in 2020 that achieves a significant further reduction in noise from vehicles;
3. Ensuring that testing is representative of real world noise emissions
4. Requiring information on vehicle noise to be publicly available; and
5. Introducing stricter limits for highly intrusive peak levels of noise

This five step plan³ is a sound investment, reducing by half traffic noise in urban areas. We urge members of the European Parliament and Environment Council to seize this once in a lifetime opportunity to substantially and cost-effectively improve the health and wellbeing of EU citizens.

The following support this Declaration:



¹ WHO (2011) press release and report available at <http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-publish/abstracts/burden-of-disease-from-environmental-noise-quantification-of-healthy-life-years-lost-in-europe>

² TNO (2012) Reduction of vehicle noise emission – Technological potential and impacts: <http://www.transportenvironment.org/publications/reduction-vehicle-noise-emissions-technological-potential-and-impacts-0>

³ T&E / HEAL / EEB (2012) New EU vehicle noise limits : http://www.transportenvironment.org/sites/default/files/media/2012%2004_TE%20Position%20Paper%20New%20EU%20Vehicles%20Noise%20Limits_5pg.pdf