

Traffic safety

An emergency-call system for cars starting in 2015

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The European Commission wants to make an emergency-call system for auto accidents mandatory

For a number of years, many auto manufacturers, such as Peugeot, have proposed emergency-call systems in case of accidents. The European Commission wants to go further and try to reduce the number of serious traffic accidents in the European Union by generalizing this plan for all new vehicles starting in October 2015.

In case of an accident or in the event that the driver becomes unconscious, this system would automatically call 112, the unique European emergency number. It will indicate where the accident took place and even whether or not the driver is conscious or incapable of calling. Thus the emergency responders can be dispatched much more quickly to the accident scene.

It is estimated that the system eCall can reduce the time to respond by 40% in urban zones and 50% in rural locations. Thus, according to the Commission, this could save up to 2500 lives per year.

Besides the benefits from the point of view of traffic safety, the eCall system, according to Brussels, could also reduce perceptibly “the blockages caused by traffic accidents and thus the number of secondary accidents due to the fact that the accident scenes are not secured.”

This equipment is going to permit a number of companies active in this technology to further develop. And its application will enable other services, such as finding stolen cars.

“It’s an important step toward bettering traffic safety in Europe. Last year there were 28,000 deaths and 1.5 million injured on European roads,” explained Siim Kallas, the European Commissioner of Transportation.