



A Sound Investment

Long-term, challenging standards to reduce noise from vehicles

Traffic noise is 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) adopting tighter noise emission limits for vehicles.

There is strong evidence noise effects the health of one in three EU citizens¹ and that steps to tackle noise from vehicles, including the tyres, are overwhelming cost effective (research showing 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 strength 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 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.

The following support this Declaration: (Table for declaration supporter’s logos...)

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