



GSM Europe Response on Communication on Information and Communications Technologies for Safe and Intelligent Vehicles

The European Commission has recently issued a Communication on Information and Communications Technologies for Safe and Intelligent Vehicles - COM (2003) 542 final. One proposal for Commission action is the promotion of a 'harmonised, pan-European in-vehicle emergency call (e-Call) service that builds on the location-enhanced emergency call E.112. For this purpose, the eSafety Forum is invited to set up a Working Group to establish consensus on the implementation of the pan-European in-vehicle emergency call (e-Call), based on the recently published Recommendation and the results of the ongoing RTD actions'.

The Recommendation on E.112 adopted by the Commission in July 2003 provides a proportionate way forward for Europe, based on technology neutrality and technical feasibility. GSM Europe will provide detailed comments on the Communication on Information and Communications Technologies for Safe and Intelligent Vehicles, but first needs clarification on the relationship between E.112 and e-Call, including technical aspects and regulatory/legal basis. We would be grateful for the Commission's response on this point.

Mobile operators are committed to provide services that meet their customers' needs for safety and security and welcome any effort to improve road safety. But at this stage, only stakeholders from the automotive and telematics sector have been involved in the work (E-merge) leading to this Communication, despite the fact that important presumptions are made regarding telecommunications. Individual operators may have had limited participation, but, we understand, only from a telematics business perspective (through ERTICO). There has been no substantial involvement of the European mobile telecommunications services industry. We urgently ask the Commission to correct this by holding a full and effective interdisciplinary consultation.

In addition GSME understands that a Working Group on e-Call – in the eSafety Forum - was established earlier this year. This group is almost exclusively composed of representatives of the automotive and telematics sector. We are surprised that GSME has not been involved directly, knowing that the discussions have also related to mobile communications aspects. Its outcomes do not therefore reflect the view of the European mobile operator community. More specifically, the e-Call WG will make a presentation to Madrid's ITS conference on 16 of November outlining its proposal which has been prepared without the involvement of GSME. We would like to stress that this presentation does not reflect the views of the European mobile industry. This should be made clear to the audience of this presentation.