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Press Release

Parliamentary Lunchtime Discussion: “The Connected Car – Benefits and Risks for Business and Consumers”

EAC-President: Only free and fair competition can safeguard consumer choice

European Automobile Clubs (EAC) presents Position Paper on Connected Cars – Access to Vehicle Data

Brussels, 16 November 2016 – At a parliamentary lunchtime debate on 10 November in Brussels, members of parliament, representatives of industry and associations, as well as consumer advocates came together to discuss how access to vehicle data could be designed to ensure both vehicle security and the participation of all market players, and hence sustainably guarantee the consumers’ freedom of choice.

The event’s objective was twofold: “Representing the interests of European car drivers, we notice an increasing demand for more information and transparency amongst our members. Many car users are not aware of the data volume that is generated, stored and processed by their vehicles and the manufacturer, respectively. Today’s lunchtime discussion is a first step to extend the debate to those, who are most affected: The consumers”, states EAC-President Bernd Opolka.

Moreover, EAC calls for the introduction of unequivocal conditions for the technical and legal framework regulating the access to vehicle data. Bernd Opolka stresses: “To maintain market diversity we need to ensure fair competition that is reflected by the same framework conditions for all market participants. All providers of the range of vehicle services must be granted sustainable and secure access to the vehicle data they need. That means also that automobile manufacturers in the aftermarket sector must have access to the same data and face the same initial conditions as any independent third-party provider. This requires political action.”

In its concurrently published position paper, EAC calls for statutory provisions regulating standardised access to vehicle data for all stakeholders. This is given if all car-related market players have access:

- to the same data
- immediately and directly
- without supervision
- in real time.

Only by preventing distortions of competition and ensuring a wide range of products and services, the free choice of consumers can be safeguarded in the long term.

EAC Position Paper: [Connected Cars – Access to Vehicle Data](#)

The European Automobile Clubs (EAC) association represents the interests of around three million road users. As a partner for mobility, our vision is to promote mobility and open up Europe's roads. To achieve this aim, it is necessary to harmonise the road traffic provisions between EU states and encourage innovative technologies – for greater road safety and sustainable mobility solutions.

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