Austria

Dear MEP (add name)

Your support for a serious road injury target for Europe – Written Declaration number 0004/2016

We are writing to call for your support for an EU-wide strategic target for reducing serious road traffic injuries by signing EP Written Declaration number 0004/2016.

In Austria 430 people died and 7,434 people were seriously injured in 2014. Since 2010 the number of people seriously injured on EU roads has been reduced by just 1.6%, compared to an 18% decrease in the number of road deaths. Last year the numbers seriously injured actually went up, by more than 3% compared to the previous year, with at least 203,500 people suffering life-changing injuries.

The principal of a separate target for reducing serious injuries was agreed five years ago by all of the three main EU institutions. It was proposed in the 2010 European Commission Transport White Paper, and received the backing of member states soon after. In a vote on the 9th of September on a review of European transport policy since 2011, the European Parliament also reiterated earlier calls for, “the swift adoption of a 2020 target of a 40 % reduction in the number of people seriously injured, accompanied by a fully fledged EU strategy.”

A target was finally expected to be set in the first half of 2015, having been promised ‘shortly’ in a Commission press release of 24 March 2015. But the European Commission backtracked, and it is now unclear when the target will be set.

The EU targets for road deaths were an important driver for the dramatic reductions we have seen in many EU countries in Austria. A European serious road injury reduction target is a simple, cheap, non-controversial and necessary step.

Moreover, there is a strong economic case to act. Estimates undertaken by the European Transport Safety Council show that, if all serious injuries recorded in 2010 could have been prevented, the benefits to society would have been more than 50 billion Euros in that year.

Please support us by signing Written Declaration Number 0004/2016 to adopt a new European serious injury target by the 18 April deadline. The written declaration can be signed personally in Strasbourg at office LOW T02024 or in Brussels PHS 02A049 or electronically using the attached form from the Member’s own mailbox: WritDeclSign@europarl.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,