Re: Safety of new trucks – delivering progressive direct vision standards at the UNECE

8 March 2021

Dear national governments,

Cycling and walking are key pillars of sustainable and healthy transport - even more so during a pandemic, and recovering in its aftermath.

Although trucks only make up 2% of vehicles, they are involved in 15% of fatal collisions. These collisions result in around 3,300 deaths each year in Europe, almost 1,000 of whom are pedestrians, cyclists or motorcyclists, who are frequently invisible to the truck driver due to the vehicle's design. For every person killed, around five more suffer serious injuries with life-changing consequences.

Trucks are safer when their drivers can directly see pedestrians and cyclists through the truck windows at life size (direct vision), as compared to small, sometimes distorted images in mirrors or cameras.

In 2021, national governments are due to pass a direct vision standard for trucks at the UN Economic Commission for Europe (as part of UNECE vehicle regulations).

The UNECE direct vision standard is directed to newly-manufactured trucks: from January 2026, it will apply to new trucks that are newly Type Approved, and from January 2029, to all registrations of new trucks.

As cities, we urge you, as national governments, to make your progressive voices heard at UNECE level to make newly-built trucks safer. By mandating national representatives at the UNECE to agree an ambitious direct vision standard for trucks in 2021, governments can greatly improve road safety, particularly for vulnerable road users.

Yours sincerely

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This letter is signed by the above-mentioned cities/regions and their contact spokespersons regarding this letter are as follows:

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