



7.2.2023

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

Subject: Petition No 0637/2022 by Julio César Fernández Losa (Spanish) on an alarm to prevent deaths from heatstroke in cars

1. Summary of petition

The petitioner requests that all next-generation vehicles be fitted with a system to prevent deaths from heatstroke in cars. He proposes an alarm that would sound when the car detects the presence of a living being for a certain period of time during which the temperature inside the vehicle is very high. In Europe, over 20 children die every year in cars due to high temperatures (not to mention pets, for which there are no records). Implementing this safety feature would allegedly cost very little, as the current equipment in cars could be used.

2. Admissibility

Declared admissible on 14 December 2022.

3. Commission reply, received on 15 February 2023

The Commission has conducted a wide range of analysis and engaged in consultations with various stakeholders on the topic of leaving children unattended in parked vehicles since 2014.

In its study from March 2015¹, the Commission concluded that at the time there were no available alerting technologies consistent and reliable enough in their performance. Therefore, the topic was not included on the list of proposals when revising the General Safety Regulation.

[Benefit and feasibility of a range of new technologies and unregulated measures in the field of vehicle occupant safety and protection of vulnerable road users - Publications Office of the EU \(europa.eu\)](#), see page 260

In the meantime, while the industry has continued to work on technological improvements, the focus primarily shifted on raising awareness. Moreover, certain Member States have introduced rules that forbid leaving children unattended in parked vehicles.

Starting at the beginning of 2023, Euro NCAP has introduced a protocol related to Child Presence Detection in its safety rating system. This protocol rewards those manufacturers that equip vehicles with technological solutions, which could both detect if children are left alone in a vehicle and alert the vehicle owner and/or the emergency services.

While more and more vehicle manufacturers are expected to start introducing Child Presence Detection features in their vehicles, the solution may not be financially viable for all the vehicle models.

Taking into account the need to harmonise signalling requirements external to a vehicle, the experts and regulators in the UN framework (i.e. Working Party on Noise and Tyres (GRBP) of UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29)) has initiated discussions on the topic of signalling, complementing the voluntary measures of Euro NCAP. Depending on the progress of discussions in GRBP and WP.29, a new signalling feature detecting unattended children in a vehicle may be introduced as part of the vehicle type approval as early as 2025.

Conclusion

Children safety remains an important objective of the Commission.

While technological progress in recent years has allowed manufacturers to start equipping their vehicles with Child Presence Detection solutions, there is also ongoing work to harmonise signalling requirements external to a vehicle.

The Commission will support the work of the Working Party on Noise and Tyres (GRBP) of UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, with a view to facilitating the entry into force of the new signalling requirement as of 2025 at the earliest.