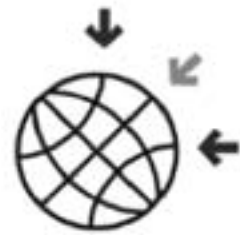


# Global Automotive Industry Meeting



**GENEVA** | 28 February 2006

## Leaders of World's Automakers Address Global Issues

A commitment to strengthen efforts with all relevant stakeholders to improve global road safety; a call for global fuel regulations; and the search for common initiatives to fight against counterfeiting of cars and automotive parts: these are some of the key resolutions taken by the leaders of the world's automakers, who met today in Geneva to discuss the industry's global public policy priorities regarding environment, road safety and intellectual property issues.

CEOs of the major automakers of the world, together with representatives of the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA), the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, and the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA) participated.

### Global Road Safety

Road safety remains one of the most urgent societal issues across the globe. According to the World Health Organization, 1.2 million are killed worldwide every year and 20-50 million are injured in road traffic accidents. Ninety percent of all road traffic casualties occur in developing countries. These losses, and the societal cost they induce (65 billion US\$ a year) constitute an element that inhibits development and perpetuates poverty in the developing world. Today, almost the entire world-wide production of passenger cars is equipped with safety belts, regardless of whether they are required by law or not. As part of their efforts to cooperate with all public and private stakeholders to improve road safety at global level, the manufacturers concerned have agreed to install safety belts by July 2008 or when designing or redesigning the remaining vehicles<sup>1</sup>. This should help promoting greater road safety, in particular in developing countries undergoing rapid motorization, as safety belts have proven to be one of the most effective safety devices, provided of course that they are correctly used.

The manufacturers have also agreed to undertake individually or collectively initiatives that are supportive of an integrated approach to road safety such as the Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP)<sup>2</sup> including working with governments to facilitate the adoption and effective enforcement of safety belt usage laws.

<sup>1</sup> Applies to vehicles of 3,500 kg (7,716 lbs) GVWR or less (including Special Purpose Vehicles), that are manufactured for sale any where in the world, where design and production of those vehicles is within the control of the manufacturer and where those vehicles are produced in a single stage (Does not apply to fold-down seats or occasional use seats).

<sup>2</sup> The Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) works to find more effective and innovative ways of dealing with road safety in developing economies. The GRSP is a global organization between business, civil society and governmental organizations collaborating to improve road safety conditions around the world. Through a comprehensive approach to road safety, GRSP partners collaborate and coordinate road safety activities.