



News Release

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World Association Of Automobile Manufacturers Focuses On Enhancing Vehicle Safety

Paris, France – Automakers from across the world focused on enhanced safety as they met at the Annual Meeting of OICA, the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers, in Paris on Nov. 30.

During the course of the meeting, attended by delegates from almost 30 National Manufacturers' Associations, OICA President Emilio di Camillo emphasized that auto safety is a top priority shared by all manufacturers.

During the development of new vehicles, manufacturers devote significant resources to the enhancement of active and passive safety measures," di Camillo said. "In addition, automobile manufacturers have instituted various systems to identify potential field concerns and, when needed, to initiate corrective action involving vehicles needing specific repair."

The United States Congress recently enacted legislation intended to enhance tire and vehicle safety, improve the flow of product information, and provide criminal penalties for willful and intentional violations of auto safety law. Prior to passage of this legislation, members of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, the US manufacturers association, committed voluntarily to report to the U.S. government on safety recalls and other safety campaigns that are conducted in a foreign country on a vehicle or component part that is also offered for sale in the United States.

In the Paris General Assembly, OICA confirmed the position, already expressed by Alliance President & CEO Josephine S. Cooper, that faster information flow on potential defects in motor vehicles will help with earlier detection and faster correction of safety-related defects in vehicles and motor vehicle equipment.

“Reported problems should be carefully analyzed technically in order to determine whether or not they may ultimately constitute a safety defect”, Cooper said.

The position of OICA, as explained by di Camillo, is clearly in favour of an enhancement of the relevant safety information flow, since safety has always been one of the top priorities of the automobile industry.

OICA however believes that a strict and rigid legislative mechanism will neither be manageable, nor efficient; quite on the contrary, voluntary agreements most probably offer the best prospects to further enforce any necessary recall actions. These agreements should be based on a clear definition of "safety defect" and ensure the necessary flexibility to allow adaptation to particular situations.

Di Camillo added that governments should not impose excessive bureaucratic burdens on automakers that could unintentionally slow down efforts to enhance consumer safety. A better alternative, he added, is closer cooperation between automakers and the government.

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