

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1920/06

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to the Commission

Subject: Road safety: safe crash barriers for motorcyclists

Infrastructure is the primary or a contributing factor in many accidents. So far, standards of construction and maintenance have not taken into account the needs of powered two wheeler (PTW) users. For this reason, the European Parliament in its own initiative report on road safety (2004/2162(INI), adopted 29-09-2005) calls for infrastructure in particular to be designed, constructed and operated considering the needs of all road users including the more vulnerable ones, e.g. motorcyclists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Furthermore the European Parliament calls on the Commission to promote best practices for road construction and promote the regular updating of CEN standards.

The mid-term review of the Third Road Safety Action Programme has stressed that road infrastructure improvements can make a significant contribution towards reducing the frequency and seriousness of road traffic accidents and that they can thereby represent an important step forward in reaching the EU target.

On 19 April 2006 HIASA presented a dummy impact study at the European Parliament on motorcyclists' safety and crash barriers, which showed the danger of commonly used crash barriers for motorcyclists.

When does the Commission intend to come forward with the long-awaited infrastructure package that takes into account the needs of all road users, including the more vulnerable ones such as motorcyclists?

Has the Commission studied the danger that cable barriers pose to vulnerable road users? Does the Commission consider that a ban on cable barriers would contribute to road safety?

Given the proven benefits that the use of motorcycle-friendly crash barriers can provide, does the Commission intend to give a mandate to the CEN to establish a new European standard for crash barriers that includes motorcycle and moped users?