

To:

Ms Usula Von der Leyen, European Commission President
Mr Stéphane Séjourné, Commissioner for Internal Market
Mr Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism
Ms Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and Circular Economy

Cc:

Ms Kerstin Jorna, Director-General DG GROW, Mr Kurt Vandenberghe, Director-General DG CLIMA, Ms Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director-General DG ENV, Magda Kopczynska, Director General of DG MOVE, Kristian Schmidt, EU Coordinator for Road Safety

Subject: Civil society calls on the EU to limit new car dimensions 2035, with a proposal from the Commission by July 2027

12 June 2025

Dear President Von der Leyen, dear Commissioners,

Civil society organisations respectfully ask the European Commission to initiate work on a legislative proposal to set limits on the dimensions of new passenger cars by 2035 (particularly their width, and bonnet height), and to commit to publishing this proposal by July 2027.

This reform is urgently needed to improve road safety, reduce raw material use and energy consumption, cut air pollution and climate emissions, and provide for a fairer distribution of public space in our cities.

The report published today by T&E and the Clean Cities Campaign charts the ongoing rise in bonnet height in newly sold cars, with data since 2010 showing it is rising by 0.5 cm a year. As highlighted in this report, the continuous rise in bonnet height has very negative safety consequences for vulnerable road users - particularly children.

This report does not stand alone. In January 2024, T&E and the Clean Cities Campaign published [Ever-Wider study](#), which drew attention to the ongoing increase in the width of new cars. For policy-makers interested in defending road safety and public space, the facts are stark: each year, newly-sold cars are on average 0.5 cm wider than the previous year of sales, and have bonnets that are 0.5 cm higher.

Without action by the European Commission, car-makers are set to continue increasing bonnet height and car width. As well as the significant negative consequences for health and safety, the continual increase in the dimensions of cars is pushing up Europe's use of raw materials, energy consumption, air pollution, climate emissions - and ever-larger vehicles are crowding out public space on European roads and streets.

In today's report on bonnet height, T&E and the Clean Cities Campaign advocate for the addition of width, length and total vehicle height to the Vehicle Registration Certificates of all new cars as soon as possible, e.g. using type approval legislation, which is due for evaluation by September 2026. This is a key first step, providing European consumers with vital information regarding their intended purchase.

The recommendation to publish proposals on bonnet height by July 2027 coincides with the deadline to review EU vehicle safety legislation. This recommended timeframe is in our view sensible and feasible. We urge you to commit to it, and start work accordingly.

Yours sincerely

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