

MEPs—Members of the European Parliament—have passed a resolution calling for mandatory fitment of an eCall system in each new car by 2015. The eCall device alerts rescue services to road crashes automatically, using the 112 public emergency call system (comparable to 999, 911, and other emergency numbers in countries outside Europe). Rescue services can arrive faster, saving lives and reducing the severity of injury. The system, based on cellular phone technology, helps qualified and equipped paramedics get to the scene within the crucial first hour after the crash. MEPs say compulsory fitment of eCall could save up to 2,500 lives a year and reduce injury severity by 10 to 15%.



The non-binding resolution urges the European Commission to bring forth legislation to make the eCall system mandatory by 2015. MEPs also call on the Commission to consider extending the system to other vehicles such as motorcycles, buses, coaches and trucks in the near future. MEPs believe that the public eCall service should be mandatory and available free of charge to all drivers in Europe, irrespective of the make of their vehicles.

MEPs point out that the necessary technology is available and that a common EU-wide standard has been agreed. They call on the Commission to table legislation requiring EU member states to upgrade their emergency response service infrastructure to handle eCalls by 2015.