



**CHANGING
CITIES**



CleanCities

ClientEarth®

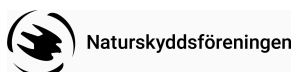
cykloVoalícia



ecodes
tiempo de actuar



LIVE + BREATHE



**NATUUR
& MILIEU**



POLIS
CITIES AND REGIONS FOR TRANSPORT INNOVATION



RINASCIMENTO GREEN



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 by 2035, with a proposal from the Commission by July 2027

12 June 2025

Dear President Von der Leyen, dear Commissioners,

Civil society organisations (please see logos above) 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 the [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 ongoing 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 legislation to require the width, length and total height of new cars to be included on Vehicle Registration Certificates as soon as possible using, for example, 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

The organisations that have attached their logos above

The relevant **contact person** in each organisation regarding **this letter** is as follows (with an email address available on request):

Tim Cassiers, **BRAL** - Citizens Action Brussels (Belgium)
Pierre Courbe, Mobility Officer, **Canopea** (Belgium)
Girina Holland, School Streets Campaign Coordinator of **Changing Cities** (Germany)
Špela Berlot Veselko, Director of **CIPRA Slovenija**, and on behalf of the **Slovenian Coalition for Sustainable Transport Policy** (KTPP)
Domantas Tracevičius, Director of **Circular Economy Lithuania**
Anna Gerometta, President of **Cittadini per l'Aria Onlus** (Italy)

Barbara Stoll, Senior Director at **Clean Cities Campaign**
Emma Budd, Cities, Transport & Value Chains at **Client Earth**
Dan Kollár, President of **Cyklokoalícia** (Slovakia)
Marcel Hoss, Transport & Air Quality at **Deutsche Umwelthilfe** (Germany)
Konstantinos Athanasopoulos, **ECOCITY** (Greece)
Cristian Quílez, Transport and Mobility manager at **ECODES** (Spain)
Marta Orihuel, **Ecologistas en Acción** (Spain)
Ceri Woolsgrove, **European Cyclists' Federation**
Antonio Avenoso, Executive Director of **European Transport Safety Council** (ETSC)
Arianna De Mario, **Genitori Antismog** (Italy)
Geert van Waeg, President of the **International Federation of Pedestrians**
Sergio Andreis, Executive Director of the **Kyoto Club** (Italy)
András Lukács, President of **Levegő Munkacsoport** (Clean Air Action Group, Hungary)
Ssega Kiwanuka, Founding Director of **LIVE + BREATHE** (UK)
Jemima Hartshorn, Founder of **Mums for Lungs** (UK)
Jens Forsmark, Sustainable Transport Expert at **Naturskyddsföreningens** (Sweden)
Nienke Onnen, Sustainable Mobility Programme Manager, **Natuur & Milieu** (Netherlands)
Dr Lucy Gilliam, Co-Executive Director of **One Planet Port**
Karen Vancluysen, Secretary General of **POLIS**
Urszula Stefanowicz, **Polish Ecological Club** (Mazovian Branch)
Jeppe Juul, Head of Transport Policy at **Rådet for Grøn Omstilling / Green Transition Denmark**
Tony Renucci, Director General of **Respire** (France)
Stephanie Brancaforte, **Rinascimento Green** (Italy)
William Todts, Executive Director at **T&E**
Colin Howden, Director of **Transform Scotland**
Katharina Jaschinsky, **VCÖ – Mobilität mit Zukunft** (Austria)
Francisco Ferreira, President of **Zero** - Association for Earth Sustainability (Portugal)