

EU plans to stop cars speeding

5th September, 2013



The European Union (EU) has a plan to stop cars speeding. It hopes to reduce the number of people who die in traffic accidents. Around 30,000 lives are lost each year on Europe's roads. The EU's project uses a technology called intelligent speed authority (ISA). This is a small digital box that is put inside the car. It costs about \$380.

The transport department said it could cut the number of road deaths by one-third by the year 2020. The system uses satellites that communicate with cars. There are two things that can happen. One is that the driver gets a warning about the speed limit. The other is that the technology automatically puts on the brakes and slows the car down to a safer speed.

Not everyone is happy with this idea. Many people in Britain do not want the EU telling them how to drive. The British transport minister Patrick McLoughlin said it took away the freedom of motorists. British politicians believe the ISA system is unnecessary because the UK has fewer road deaths than other European countries. In 2012, 1,754 people died on British roads. This was down from 1,901 in 2011 and the lowest figure since records began in 1926. In Germany, there were 3,657 fatalities last year. A UK motoring organisation warned that ISA could be dangerous. It said: "If you were overtaking a tractor and suddenly needed to accelerate to avoid [crashing], you would not be able to."

Sources: *Telegraph / Daily Mail / iDigital Times*

Writing

All cars should have technology to limit their speed. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

European Union / speeding / traffic accident / transport / satellite / speed limit / brakes / how to drive / motorists / since records began / fatalities / overtaking / accelerate

True / False

- The EU wants to help save lives on Europe's roads. T / F
- The abbreviation I.S.A. means Intelligent Speed Advisor. T / F
- The EU thinks road deaths can be cut by a third in the next 7 years. T / F
- The ISA system automatically cuts off fuel when the car goes too fast. T / F
- British people aren't happy about the EU idea. T / F
- Britain's transport minister welcomed the new technology. T / F
- There were the fewest road deaths in Britain last year since 1926. T / F
- A motoring group said the new technology was dangerous for tractors. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. plan | a. ordering |
| 2. traffic accidents | b. number |
| 3. cut | c. alert |
| 4. communicate | d. deaths |
| 5. warning | e. idea |
| 6. happy | f. interact |
| 7. telling | g. escape |
| 8. figure | h. car crashes |
| 9. fatalities | i. pleased |
| 10. avoid | j. lower |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the EU plan?
- How safe are the roads in your country?
- Do people in your country keep to the speed limits?
- Should speed limits go up, down or stay the same?
- Should all cars have speed limiters, video cameras and black boxes?
- What is your idea to make the roads safer?
- Do you ever worry about accidents when you're in a car / on a bus?
- What do you think of no speed limits (like on Germany's autobahn)?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. a plan to stop | a. lost each year |
| 2. reduce the number of people who die | b. fatalities last year |
| 3. Around 30,000 lives are | c. to accelerate |
| 4. cut the number of road deaths | d. in traffic accidents |
| 5. the technology automatically puts | e. telling them how to drive |
| 6. people in Britain do not want the EU | f. by one-third |
| 7. the lowest figure | g. cars speeding |
| 8. there were 3,657 | h. since records began |
| 9. motoring | i. on the brakes |
| 10. suddenly needed | j. organisation |

Discussion – Student B

- Why would people not be happy about this idea?
- How much freedom should motorists have?
- Is all technology that saves lives necessary?
- Are driverless cars safer?
- What should happen to people who go over the speed limit?
- Is it dangerous for a satellite to automatically put a car's brakes on?
- Should overtaking be banned?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of the EU project?

Spelling

- euercd the number of people who die
- traffic cciteansd
- ignlenlitet speed authority
- orspatntr department
- The system uses silteltesa
- technology uoamyaitlaclt puts on the brakes
- British lanticioips
- the ISA system is rncnueaseys
- the lowest erfuig since records began
- there were 3,657 faiiaetlst last year
- suddenly needed to eaelcarcte
- vioad crashing

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. h	3. j	4. f	5. c
6. i	7. a	8. b	9. d	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Crash helmets

You think crash helmets are the best way to reduce road deaths. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their methods. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a speed limiter, video cameras or more police.

Role B – Speed limiter

You think a speed limiter is the best way to reduce road deaths. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their methods. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): crash helmets, video cameras or more police.

Role C – Video cameras

You think video cameras are the best way to reduce road deaths. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their methods. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a speed limiter, crash helmets or more police.

Role D – More police

You think more police is the best way to reduce road deaths. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their methods. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a speed limiter, video cameras or crash helmets.

Speaking - Transport

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| • car | • airplane |
| • bullet train | • helicopter |
| • cruise ship | • bicycle |
| • motorbike | • bus |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.