



European Youth leaders adopt the **BRUSSELS EUROPEAN YOUTH DECLARATION FOR ROAD SAFETY**

**We, the youth of Europe,
have gathered in Brussels, Belgium, on 24 and 25 November 2011,
for the Fourth European Youth Forum for Road Safety**

We have drafted and adopted this **Declaration** in order to proclaim our commitment to address the problem of road traffic fatalities and injuries, and **to urge Europe to take action to prevent road accidents**. We – youth leaders from all European Member States – took part in the Fourth European Youth Forum for Road Safety. This Forum brought us together and provided us with an opportunity to discuss how we can be advocates for youth and road safety issues, by inspiring, connecting and uniting at European level, and by developing our capacities. Furthermore, we discussed how young people can work together to implement the European Policy orientations on road safety for the next decade (2011-2020).

Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death among young people aged between 15 and 24. Every year, around 6,000 young lives are lost in the EU¹ and the lives of more than 60.000 are seriously damaged. This means that, every month, more than 500 young lives are lost. We can no longer accept that the lives of our friends and family members are senselessly destroyed on the roads. Because road traffic injuries and deaths can be predicted and prevented, the world has an obligation to stop them. We are certain that you not only share our concern, but that you also want to change this situation. **We are confident that you, like us, refuse to pay such a high a price for transportation, the original purpose of which was to better our lives.**

As potential victims of road traffic accidents, we – the youth of Europe – stand up for ourselves and our peers and call for the right to stay alive on Europe's roads. Being young road users ourselves, we know what is on the minds of young people; we know their likes and dislikes and the kinds of messages that will appeal to them. Therefore, we must be given a voice and be listened to when road safety initiatives are being developed and implemented.

OUR COMMITMENT

We have respect for our own life and for the lives of our peers. Because life is so fragile, we must do our best to live safely and also encourage our peers do so. We fully acknowledge the importance of youth involvement in making road safety happen. **We call for awareness among our peers of the serious risks they run in becoming involved in road traffic accidents.** We call upon our peers to serve as role models on the road and to promote road safety among our friends and families - particularly our younger brothers and sisters. Specifically, we ask our peers to avoid driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, avoid speeding, refrain from aggressive behaviour on the road, use helmets when riding motorcycles and bicycles, wear seat-belts when in motor vehicles, and ensure that we are visible on the roads.

¹ CARE Database: Community database Accidents on the Road in Europe





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However, our efforts alone are not sufficient. We therefore also call upon our parents and guardians, our schools and universities, the communities in which we live – as well as on policy-makers, community-based organizations, private sector companies, media, celebrities and the entertainment sector – to share responsibility and work together with us to make the road ahead safe and sustainable. We also see that we have an obligation to help each others by sharing the knowledge and networking with other worldwide youth organizations.

We therefore urge you to:

- Continue to support the annual European Youth Forum for Road Safety and to acknowledge its importance as a forum for young people to meet and share best practices, and to make their voices heard at European level.
- Develop and implement policies and initiatives to make European roads safer, in particular:
 - to encourage through **education** at school the development of a road safety culture at a younger age; to develop, through the training and licensing process, a sense of individual responsibility and respect of other users;
 - to re-inforce the **awareness** amongst young people of the need to comply with road traffic rules and to avoid risky behaviours, in particular in relation with speed, drugs, alcohol and the use of mobile phones while driving;
 - to improve the safety of young people as **vulnerable road users**, and to address as a priority the safety of young **riders of powered-two-wheelers**.
 - to prevent and limit the consequences of crashes involving more particularly young people through the development of **safer infrastructure** and **vehicle technologies**;
 - to strengthen efforts to reduce the number and severity of **road traffic injuries** which may have long-life dramatic consequences for young people;
- Discuss youth and road safety issues, learn about the situation of young people on the roads and bring their issues to the forefront.

(signed by)

the members of the European Youth Forum to Road Safety

