



DECADE OF ACTION

How the FIA and FIA Foundation led the call for a Decade of Action for Road Safety, an historic declaration sanctioned by governments worldwide.



FIA PRESIDENT

An in-depth look at the policy agenda for motor sport, mobility and the FIA which is being implemented by FIA President Jean Todt and his team.

WORLD RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

A Special Report examines the technical, environmental and promotional developments in the FIA's premier rallying championship.

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CLUB NEWS

WOMEN TEST ANTI-SKID TECHNOLOGY



DTM star Susie Stoddart helped demonstrate the benefits of ESC at a recent eSafety Aware event in Rome

Road safety is high on the policy agenda in Belgium, and one of the biggest steps forward in road safety since the seat belt is the anti-skid technology called Electronic Stability Control (ESC). Touring Club Belgium (TCB) has for some time been actively involved in promoting ESC and raising its members' awareness of the need to choose ESC when purchasing a new car:

In a survey conducted in September, TCB researched how children go to school, finding

that in 85 per cent of cases, journeys are made by car. With these findings at hand, TCB doubled its efforts to emphasise the importance of cars being equipped with adequate safety systems. This campaign specifically targeted mothers who often drive smaller family cars that are not necessarily equipped with an ESC system.

In fact, around one in two new cars in Belgium are still not fitted with ESC, and it is the

smaller models in particular that are either not equipped with the system or only offer it as an optional feature. Recognising that these types of vehicles are often used by women for transporting their children to and from school, TCB joined forces with automobile technology company Bosch to stage an event giving 24 female TCB members the opportunity to experience the benefits of ESC first hand.

As part of the event, a test track was set up that enabled the participants to try the anti-skid technology under the supervision of experienced instructors. The women were first allowed to negotiate the circuit in a car without an ESC system, and then in a vehicle equipped with the technology.

After taking part in the event, all agreed that they would ask for the anti-skid system when purchasing a new car in the future. Some even said they would never again drive without the security of ESC.

TCB is the Belgian partner for the Choose ESC campaign and Euro NCAP, which this year expanded the scope of its assessment programmes to include the standard fitment of an ESC system. Part of TCB's safety drive for the past several years has been to run a public education campaign aimed at making drivers aware of the importance of these active vehicle safety systems.

The European regulatory authorities have also reacted to the problem of ESC take-up by car manufacturers. Earlier this year, the European Parliament approved a European Commission proposal to make the anti-skid technology mandatory for all new vehicle models starting in 2011, and for every newly registered vehicle starting in 2014.