

Summary of Meeting

Forum for the Automobile & Society
Steering Group Meeting
1 March 2007, 12.30-14.00 pm

FIA Offices, Rue d'Arlon 53, Brussels

- Frédérique Biston, Volvo
- Martin Callanan MEP
- Des Collins, Bridgestone
- Jacques Compagne, ACEM
- Nicky Denning, ACEA
- Marie de Saint-Cheron, Renault
- Florence Doucy, Michelin
- Amy Etchells, Assistant to Malcolm Harbour MEP
- Malcolm Harbour MEP
- Mark Morgan, ECG
- Hiroki Ota, JAMA
- Ben Reichert, ERTICO
- Maria Assumpcio Rojo Torrent, PSA Peugeot Citroën
- Gaby Roosen, Forum Secretariat
- Stephen Stacey, Toyota Motor Europe
- Luc Vinckx, General Motors
- Gerhard Wöhrle, BMW
- Annerose Zacherl, MAN
- Guido Zincone, FIAT

Summary of Meeting

Mr Malcolm Harbour MEP opened the meeting and welcomed those present. A tour de table followed.

1. Review & Feedback Report on Meetings

- **6 February 2007: Meeting on Competitiveness**

The SG shared **Martin Callanan's** view that this event was extremely topical and that the presence and the different opinions of the two Commissioners added some spice to it. The top-panel was considered as too big and there could have been more contributions from the floor. **Mr Harbour** said that he liked the format with some keynote speeches, followed by sharp interventions from the panel. He also stressed the point that future meetings should involve more NGOs. Turning towards the summary of the feedback forms, he highlighted the fact that people rated the event valuable and relevant. The SG thanked Joanna Smolinska and her TWG Competitiveness for the good preparatory work.

With a view to the mid-term review of CARS21 in 2009, **Mr Guido Zincone** suggested organising a follow-up event later this year or beginning of next year. **Mr Harbour** supported this idea.

Mrs Gaby Roosen raised the question how to deal with media attendance in the future. The event had created a huge media interest and several camera teams had to be refused in order not to disturb the event too much. Following a discussion, it was agreed that all meetings are “on the record” and that the print media will be always allowed. Requests of TV crews will be handled on a case-by-case basis and will be directed to the SG members for approval.

2. Forthcoming Meetings & Report of the Working Groups

• 21 March 2007: Road Safety

Mr Harbour reported that the invitations have been sent out. **Mrs Roosen** informed the SG that arrangements to show the “Make Roads Safe” video during the lunch had been made.

• 5 June 2007: Event on Environment

Mr Luc Vinckx reported that the TWG Environment met the week before. The meeting in June will focus on the demand side of CO2. It is planned to have four speakers.

Mrs Marie de Saint-Cheron added that the event will discuss consumer choices, taxation, and marketing. The objectives of the meeting are to debate: how to make consumers more aware of environmental issues, how to tackle the lack of demand for CO2 friendly vehicles, and how to progress on market fragmentation.

Four speakers could cover the following topics:

- background on the demand side and consumers (representative of a car manufacturer or an independent speaker)
- fiscal and environmental policies of Member States (UK and Belgium were identified as interesting countries)
- the voice of the consumers (representative of a consumer association, e.g. FIA)
- European public policies (a Commission representative presented a view on the current and future policies on various aspects, such as taxation, public procurement etc.)

Mr Harbour questioned if it is worthwhile to have a Commission speaker on this subject as the Forum heard most of it from Jos Delbeke in the last event on 6 February. He suggested inviting a NGO instead to ensure a lively debate. He mentioned T&E who published on car advertising and demand; and IEEP and its report on carbon prints of vehicles and consumer awareness. Regarding an independent speaker covering the demand side, he suggested finding out if one of the major research organisations has done some work on consumer attitudes to advertising, CO2 etc. Following a question from **Mrs Nicky Denning**, Mr Harbour said a code of conduct for marketing and advertising should be also covered in the debate.

The TWG Environment was asked to present a final proposal at the next SG meeting in order to send invitations to the speakers asap.

Mr Stephen Stacey questioned whether the debate should also cover the contribution of the complementary measures which were recently proposed by the Commission to reduce CO2 emissions to 120 gr/km. **Mr Harbour** replied that the event should not be overloaded with topics, and that the SG had also decided in its last meeting that this debate would focus on consumer demand only. These measures could be discussed in the context of the annual competitiveness event next February, in case the CO2 package is in place by then.

- **9 October 2007: Event on Mobility**

Mr Stacey informed the SG that the TWG Mobility will meet on 27 March 2006. A possible topic for this debate could be infrastructure and its contribution to the 120 gr/km goal. ACEA's cost/benefit analysis of mobility might be another possible topic, in case the results would be available by that time. The TWG Mobility is asked to present a first proposal at the next SG meeting.

Mrs Roosen circulated the latest membership list of the TWG Mobility and Environment (attached to this summary) and invited the SG members to join these groups.

- **Joint FAS/EIF event**

Mr Harbour informed the SG that EIF suggested 18 December 2007 as a possible date for a dinner debate in the Parliament. It was agreed to set up a joint WG and to hold a first preparatory meeting before Eastern. For the Forum, Frédérique Biston and Ben Reichert volunteered. Mr Harbour and the Secretariat will circulate a joint note with the basic overall theme which is how infrastructure and communication technology can make roads safer.

3. Any other business

Mrs Roosen reminded the SG that the next meeting with NGOs is scheduled for 15 May 2007. The Secretariat is asked to invite the NGOs next month.

The next Steering Group meeting will take place on Thursday, 29 March 2007, from 1-2pm (with a lunch from 12.30pm). The venue will be the FIA offices (Rue d'Arlon 53). The meeting closed at 13.40h.

Action Points

- 5 June 2007: Event on Environment
 - The TWG Environment to present a final proposal to the next SG meeting on 29 March.

- 9 October 2007: Event on Mobility
 - The TWG Mobility is asked to present a first proposal at the next SG meeting on 29 March.
- 18 December 2007: Joint FAS/EIF event
 - The Secretariat to circulate a joint note with the basic overall theme and to invite to a first joint WG meeting
- 15 May 2007: Meeting with NGOs
 - The Secretariat to invite the NGOs to this meeting