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Press Release

Embargoed until 10:00 (CEST) 26 October 2011

Euro NCAP awards first 5 star rating for a pick-up

Euro NCAP announces the results for twelve new vehicles. This month's top scorers with five stars are the Audi Q3, BMW 1 Series, Chevrolet Captiva, Fiat Freemont, Ford Ranger, Hyundai Veloster, Mercedes M-Class, Opel/Vauxhall Astra and Opel/Vauxhall Zafira Tourer, Lancia Thema and Toyota Yaris. The Lancia Voyager was awarded four stars.

The most remarkable result this month is the Ford Ranger, the first pickup to achieve a five star rating, with impressive scores in all areas of Euro NCAP's assessments. This third generation model was designed and engineered by Ford Australia and marks a significant improvement over the 2 star adult occupant rating of the previous Ranger in 2008. In particular, the Ranger's 81% pedestrian score is the highest score recorded for pick-ups tested by Euro NCAP so far and therefore sets a new standard in this area. This performance is the result of a softer and well-engineered front end, absorbing the impact energy and better protecting pedestrians. Michiel van Ratingen, Euro NCAP Secretary General, says: 'with such pedestrian protection the Ford Ranger is undoubtedly raising the bar of safety in the category of pick-up trucks, which had until now not proven to be the safest.'

Other vehicles that obtained good scores for pedestrian protection include the BMW 1 Series, the Mercedes M-Class and the Toyota Yaris, all scoring more than 60% of available points, the lower limit that Euro NCAP will set for a five star rating from 2012 onwards. The BMW 1 Series is fitted with the Assist Advanced eCall, an automatic emergency call system rewarded under Euro NCAP Advanced.

In this latest set of results, the Fiat Freemont, the M-Class Mercedes, the Lancia Thema and Voyager are equipped with active bonnets in order to improve pedestrian protection. On these cars, sensors detect when a pedestrian has been struck and actuators lift the bonnet to provide greater clearance to hard structures underneath. Although it is encouraging that some manufacturers invest in high-tech measures to protect pedestrians, there still is room for further improvement. *Watch our video on pedestrian safety.*

The Lancia Thema, Lancia Voyager and Fiat Freemont are the first three tangible results of Chrysler's take-over by Italian automobile manufacturer Fiat. The Lancia Thema saloon gained overall 5 stars, whereas the new Voyager received 4 stars. Previously tested in 2007 under the Chrysler Voyager, the new Voyager is offering better safety but the town and country minivan is still lagging behind with 79% in adult protection and 67% in child occupant protection. On the up side, the minivan also demonstrated promising progress compared to the results of 2007 when the previous generation model scored no points and was awarded no stars for the protection it offered to pedestrians. Finally, the Fiat Freemont, a seven-seat MPV built on the Dodge Journey, also achieved Euro NCAP 5 star overall rating.

Details of these results can now be found on www.euroncap.com. For media related information, please contact Marie Brasseur, Euro NCAP Communications Manager at marie.brasseur@euroncap.com or +32 2 4007746.

MAKE AND MODEL	CLASS	YEAR OF TEST	EURO NCAP ADVANCED	OVERALL SCORE
Audi Q3 (LHD)	Small Off Road 4x4	2011		5 stars
BMW 1 series (LHD)	Small Family	2011	Assist Advanced eCall	5 stars
Chevrolet Captiva (RHD)	Small Off Road 4x4	2011		5 stars
Fiat Freemont (LHD)	Large MPV	2011		5 stars
Ford Ranger 2011 (RHD)	Pick up	2011		5 stars
Hyundai Veloster (LHD)	Large Family	2011		5 stars
Lancia Voyager (LHD)	Small MPV	2011		4 stars
Lancia Thema (LHD)	Executive	2011		5 stars
Mercedes-Benz M Class (LHD)	Large off-road 4x4	2011		5 stars
Opel Astra Coupe (LHD)	Small Family	2011		5 stars
Opel/Vauxhall Zafira Tourer(LHD)	Small MPV	2011		5 stars
Toyota Yaris (LHD)	Small Family	2011		5 stars

About Euro NCAP

Euro NCAP organizes crash tests on new vehicles and provides motoring consumers with a realistic and independent assessment of the safety performance of some of the most popular cars sold in Europe. Established in 1997 and backed by several European Governments, motoring, consumer and insurance organizations, Euro NCAP has rapidly become a catalyst for encouraging significant safety improvements to new car design. Visit our website: www.euroncap.com

Editors' notes

1. Consumers should be aware that not all cars are comparable due to their varying size and weight. For comparable cars please consult our website www.euroncap.com.
2. Euro NCAP's overall rating includes Adult Occupant Protection, Child Occupant Protection, Pedestrian Protection and Safety Assist. Vehicles are awarded a single overall score from one to five stars. The assessment incorporates Rear Impact (Whiplash) testing, the availability of ESC and the presence of speed limitation devices. The overall rating is based on the car's performance in each of the four main areas and the scores are weighted with respect to each other. Over the next three years, stricter requirements will be introduced increasing the emphasis on all-round safety performance and demanding higher levels of achievement in each area.
3. Consumers should be aware that results are time dependent, the more recently a car has been tested, the more accurate and up-to-date the results of its safety performance. Only ratings for the year the car was tested apply for older or second-hand cars. These ratings can be considered compromised if the car has been involved in an accident.