ALLIANZ GROUP COMMUNICATIONS
12TH ALLIANZ MOTOR DAY: ALLIANZ SURVEY

Media Release: One in Two Truck Drivers Switches Off Assistance Systems

- One in two truck drivers has a weekly conflict with pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists.
- Aggressive driving and disregard for traffic rules are the most common misbehaviours in road traffic.
- Accident experience: Comparison shows significant differences in the countries analyzed.

Munich, October 16, 2024

As part of this year's 12th Allianz Motor Day, road users in five European countries were surveyed regarding the safety of vulnerable road users in urban areas*. The key finding of the representative survey is that 50 percent of heavy vehicle drivers in Germany often or sometimes switch off the driver assistance systems in their trucks or vans. The situation is similar in other countries: 54 percent in France and the UK, 48 percent in Spain, and 47 percent in Italy. The reasons given include that the systems are 'impractical', 'annoying', 'unnecessary', or that they sometimes do not work properly.

Christian Sahr, Head of the Allianz Centre for Technology (AZT), which commissioned the study, emphasizes the importance of these findings: "What use are the best driver assistance systems if they are not switched on? It is therefore crucial that fleet operators and drivers receive comprehensive training on how to use these systems. Additionally, our recent study of 700 road accidents shows the significant potential of modern driver assistance systems, but also the need for structural changes to improve driver visibility in commercial vehicles. We estimate that one-third of the accidents we studied could have been avoided if the truck driver had been able to see other road users in time due to a direct line of sight or if the truck had been equipped with an active blind-spot assistant."

Weekly accidents involving heavy vehicles

Approximately one in two surveyed heavy vehicle drivers experiences a dangerous conflict with unprotected road users at least once a week. This was reported by 53 percent of truck and van drivers in Germany, 48 percent in Spain, 45 percent in Italy, 43 percent in France, and 42 percent in the UK. Ulrich Stephan, Head of Commercial Business at Allianz Versicherungs-AG, sees significant potential in addressing this issue: "The driver's perspective shows that the current situation leads to a high number of risk situations. In addition to the positive impact on road safety, effective assistance systems can also benefit fleet operators in terms of vehicle insurance: only safe vehicles can be profitable for fleet operators."

Risk of human error

In the survey of general road users, aggressive driving and disregard for traffic rules were cited as the most observed misbehaviors. Drivers of heavy vehicles mentioned blind spots and relentless cyclists (Germany), speeding (France), distraction (UK), reckless e-scooter drivers (Spain), and mobile phone use while driving (Italy) as the biggest risks. Lucie Bakker, Head of Claims at Allianz Versicherungs-AG, confirms this from her claims experience: "The risk of mobile phone use is particularly high for delivery vans because, unlike traditional post vehicles, they don't drive from door to door but have to keep an eye on their mobile device for the next stop. This is particularly noticeable in the urban delivery sector. We see a 20 percent higher frequency of motor liability claims for courier, express, and parcel services compared to vehicles in other industries."

Accident experience varies widely between countries

The study also shows that the experience of road collisions differs significantly between the countries analyzed. While in the UK, only 18 percent of general road users experience a dangerous situation with others once a week, this figure rises to 30 percent in France, 35 percent in Germany, 46 percent in Spain, and 55 percent in Italy.

You can find further press information on the 12th Allianz Motor Day on our Internet portal Mitteilungen | Allianz.

For further information please contact:

Christian Weishuber Tel. +4989.3800-18169 E-Mail: christian.weishuber@allianz.de
Mobile +49172-8448464

About Allianz
The Allianz Group is one of the world's leading insurers and asset managers with around 125 million* private and corporate customers in nearly 70 countries. Allianz customers benefit from a broad range of personal and corporate insurance services, ranging from property, life and health insurance to assistance services to credit insurance and global business insurance. Allianz is one of the world's largest investors, managing around 741 billion euros** on behalf of its insurance customers. Furthermore, our asset managers PIMCO and Allianz Global Investors manage about 1.8 trillion euros** of third-party assets. Thanks to our systematic integration of ecological and social criteria in our business processes and investment decisions, we are among the leaders in the insurance industry in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. In 2023, over 157,000 employees achieved total business volume of 161.7 billion euros and an operating profit of 14.7 billion euros for the group.

* Including non-consolidated entities with Allianz customers.
**As of June 30, 2024.

Mandatory corporate information: Corporate disclosures

These assessments are, as always, subject to the disclaimer provided below.

Cautionary note regarding forward-looking statements
This document includes forward-looking statements, such as prospects or expectations, that are based on management's current views and assumptions and subject to known and unknown risks and uncertainties. Actual results, performance figures, or events may differ significantly from those expressed or implied in such forward-looking statements.

Deviations may arise due to changes in factors including, but not limited to, the following: (i) the general economic and competitive situation in the Allianz's core business and core markets, (ii) the performance of financial markets (in particular market volatility, liquidity, and credit events), (iii) adverse publicity, regulatory actions or litigation with respect to the Allianz

Group, other well-known companies and the financial services industry generally, (iv) the frequency and severity of insured loss events, including those resulting from natural catastrophes, and the development of loss expenses, (v) mortality and morbidity levels and trends, (vi) persistency levels, (vii) the extent of credit defaults, (viii) interest rate levels, (ix) currency exchange rates, most notably the EUR/USD exchange rate, (x) changes in laws and regulations, including tax regulations, (xi) the impact of acquisitions including related integration issues and reorganization measures, and (xii) the general competitive conditions that, in each individual case, apply at a local, regional, national, and/or global level. Many of these changes can be exacerbated by terrorist activities.

No duty to update

Allianz assumes no obligation to update any information or forward-looking statement contained herein, save for any information we are required to disclose by law.

Privacy Note

Allianz SE is committed to protecting your personal data. Find out more in our privacy statement.