



NEWS RELEASE

Big Task for a Small Country: Slovene Presidency to advance EU road safety

10 January 2008, Brussels – ETSC⁽¹⁾ welcomes the news that road safety will be a top priority on the Transport agenda for the Slovene Presidency of the EU⁽²⁾, which started on 1 January 2008. In its Memorandum⁽³⁾ to Slovenia ETSC called on it to ensure the realisation of the key EU road safety policy dossiers.

Top of the legislative agenda is the **Infrastructure Safety Directive** which is now under reconsideration by the European Parliament. This legislation could save 600 lives a year through substantial improvements in the road network, introducing an EU system of high risk sites treatment, road safety audits and safety impact assessment on the Trans-European Road Network. At present not enough EU countries make use of these life saving tools. The Slovene Presidency should work with the European Parliament to reach a swift adoption of robust legislation which guarantees a high level of safety on the Trans-European Network across the EU.

Next on the horizon is the improvement of traffic law enforcement⁽⁴⁾. The Slovene Presidency should, together with the Commission, place enforcement of road traffic law high on its political agenda and engage in discussions with other Member States including the future Presidency holder, France. The European Commission committed itself to proposing a Directive in case insufficient progress towards the 2010 target was made. Given the insufficient progress being made towards the EU 2010 target, the Slovene presidency should also raise the need to include the cross border co-operation to raise the level of road safety in all EU Member States.

As we come to the last part of this decade and closer to the **2010 EU deadline to halve road deaths** ETSC stresses the need to now get the ball rolling in elaborating the **4th Road Safety Action Programme**. This process should include a review of road safety achievements and shortcomings of the past decade. At a European level only a very few of the measures set out in the ambitious 3rd Road Safety Action Programme have been achieved at all. Moreover the EU experienced a dramatic transformation with EU enlargement which also meant a growing imbalance of road risk between Member States.

"We hope that the Slovene Presidency, will be remembered for placing road safety at the top of the transport agenda and progressing EU policy with a life saving Directive on infrastructure safety," said ETSC Executive Director Jörg Beckmann.

For more information please contact ETSC Head of Policy Ellen Townsend ellen.townsend@etsc.be or ETSC Communications Officer Evgueni Pogorelov evgueni.pogorelov@etsc.be , tel. +32 2 230 4106

Notes to Editors:

- (1) The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of transport crashes and casualties in Europe. ETSC seeks to identify and promote effective measures on the basis of international scientific research and best practice. The Council brings together 39 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.be
- (2) Slovene Presidency Priorities: Transport
http://www.eu2008.si/en/Policy_Areas/Transport_Telecommunications_and_Energy/Transport.html
- (3) ETSC Memorandum to the Slovene Presidency on European Road Safety Policy
www.etsc.be/documents/Memorandum%20to%20the%20Slovene%20Presidency.pdf
- (4) A cost-benefit analysis carried out for the European Commission assessed that increased traffic law enforcement in the three priority areas – speeding, drink driving and seat belt use – could reduce road deaths annually by 14,000 in the EU 15 (and clearly even more in the EU 25). (ICF Consulting 2003 Cost Benefit Analysis of Road Safety Improvements Final Report London UK)