



NEWS RELEASE

Lithuanian road safety NGO joins ETSC

12 August 2010, Brussels – The Lithuanian National Association Helping Traffic Victims (NPNA) has become ETSC's newest, 43rd member. ETSC welcomes this newest arrival which will enhance cooperation between Lithuania and the rest of the EU and improve the scope of ETSC pan-European programmes in road safety.

The Lithuanian National Association Helping Traffic Victims (NPNA) is a non-governmental organisation established in 2005. It currently consists of 150 members, both companies and private individuals from various towns and regions of Lithuania. Headquartered in the capital city of Vilnius, NPNA has representative offices in several smaller towns all around the country.

"The objective of our Association is to cooperate with the civil society in raising awareness of road safety issues and existing solutions to them", said Algirdas Poskus, Chairman of the Board of the NPNA. *"We strive to do this by promoting European best practice in Lithuania and helping to implement advocacy campaigns proposed by the Association members. There is a particularly strong focus on children and young people in our work through our participation in traffic education in preschool and school institutions."*

Between 2001 and 2009 Lithuania has reduced the number of road deaths by 48%, from 706 down to 370, with a particularly big leap forward made in 2009 when road deaths went down by 26% compared to 2008. This success puts Lithuania on the list of few countries which will most probably reach the EU target of halving road deaths by 2010. Another useful indicator of good progress is the number of road deaths per million population: while in 2001 it was among Europe's highest in Lithuania at 202, in 2009 it was down to 110 – still a far cry from the EU average of 70 but definitely going fast in the right direction.

Antonio Avenoso, ETSC Executive Director, said: *"We have already enjoyed many years of efficient cooperation in data exchange and analysis with the Lithuanian Ministry of Transport in the framework of our Road Safety Performance Indicator (PIN) Programme. The fact that now a prominent national road safety NGO has decided to join ETSC and to fully participate in all our activities is a very promising development which shows the growing importance of road safety for Lithuanian residents. We are sure that the wealth of ETSC expertise and frequent contacts with other ETSC Members will help NPNA to further promote it on its home ground."*

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Notes to Editors:

(1) **The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)** is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of the number and severity of transport crashes in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 43 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.eu