European Transport Safety Council

NEWS RELEASE
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Young Road Safety Activists Camp in Brussels

Nineteen students from Universities around Europe have spent this week at a road safety camp in Brussels to learn about safe road design and effective lobbying. Organised by ETSC[(1)] for the first time, the camp is part of the Roads to Respect Programme launched in March 2007. The objective of the programme, co-financed by Toyota and 3M, is to mobilise future road safety professionals to improve the safety of high-risk road sections.

Earlier this year ETSC staff had toured the 13 participating Universities[(2)] in Italy, Spain and Poland giving lectures on road safety. The 19 most active students participating in those seminars were then picked up to attend the camp in Brussels on 10-14 September. The camp served not only as a road safety education platform, but also as a general introduction to the art of road safety lobbying.

Upon return to their countries, the students will demonstrate their newly-acquired lobbying and campaigning by presenting a high risk site they have identified to their local authorities and get a commitment from them to get it treated. The most successful of the young lobbyists will be presented with a Roads-to-Respect Award in Brussels in the beginning of 2008.

"We at ETSC increasingly see growth of local road safety initiatives in Europe," says ETSC Executive Director Jörg Beckmann. *"People want to live in a safe environment and not to see their lives jeopardised on the roads. Today's students will be tomorrow's road safety decision-makers. Their personal commitment to casualty reduction and ability to work with stakeholders from industry, research and civil society will determine the future of road safety in Europe."*

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Notes to Editors:

(1) The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), founded in 1993, 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 37 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.

(2) The participating Universities are: two Universities in Rome (I), University of Brescia (I), University of Pizza (I), University of Naples (I), University of Milan (I); University of Madrid (S), University of Granada (S), University of Valencia (S); University of Warsaw (P), University of Gdansk (P), University of Krakow (P), University of Poznan (P).