European Transport Safety Council

NEWS RELEASE

Directive on Cross Border Enforcement "On the Road"

30th of August 2012, Brussels - Vice President of the European Commission, Mr. Kallas, reassured Members of the European Parliament[1], that "the Commission, as guardian of the Treaty, will take all necessary measures to ensure the transposition of the Directive on cross-border enforcement of legislation." He added that if necessary they would be ready to launch infringement proceedings under Article 258.

Earlier this year the European Commission asked the European Court of Justice to consider the legal base of the Directive. Ines Ayala Sender (S&D) rapporteur for the Directive and Georges Bach (PPE) shadow rapporteur had asked for an update of how the European Commission was supporting implementation preparations prior to the summer holidays, a season when high numbers of resident drivers, cross Europe.

ETSC[2] strongly welcomed the final adoption of Directive 20011/82/EU of October 25th, 2011 which aims to "facilitate cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety". The Directive will introduce a system of exchanging information to enable the follow up of road safety related traffic offences committed by non-resident drivers. ETSC welcomed the news that the European Commission would be willing to apply this pressure if need be, but hopes that EU Member States will respect the deadline and put in place the life saving measures included in this Directive. The European Commission also updated MEPs about the establishment of an expert group on the implementation in order to promote full compliance with the legislation on road safety offences. The expert group held their first meeting on the 20th of July 2012. On the agenda were issues on transposing the Directive and putting structures in place to realise the information exchange.

Member States and the European Commission will now have a legal obligation to provide non-resident drivers with information on the rules applicable in the various countries European Union. Member States have been requested to send information on the traffic rules covered by the Directive to the European Commission this autumn. The information provided by the Member States will then be published on the website for the European Road Safety[3]. Member States also have obligations in this area. They will need to work with multipliers to provide road users with the necessary information about the rules applicable in their territory. It is hoped that in summers to come, through raising awareness and linking this to increased enforcement, drivers will no longer feel above the law when they are on holiday. Drivers will comply with road safety related traffic legislation and so contribute to greater road safety in Europe.

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[1]Parliamentary Question on Transposition of the Cross Border Enforcement Directive http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+WQ+E-2012-007145+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN

[2] ETSC is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to reducing the numbers of deaths and injuries in transport in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 45 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.eu

[3] http://ec.europa.eu/roadsafety