European Transport Safety Council

NEWS RELEASE

Cross-Border Enforcement Directive Receives Official Green Light from EU Council

17 March 2011, Brussels **– "We are happy that Member States' representatives took this important next step towards improving the safety of citizens across the EU," ETSC[1] Executive Director Antonio Avenoso commented on the decision of the EU Council of Ministers[2]. "The formal adoption by the Council of the Common Position on the Cross-Border Enforcement Directive paves the way toward solving a long-standing issue for road safety in the EU," Avenoso said.**

"The Council decision shows real commitment to improving road safety; despite the setback of the UK's decision to delay its opt-in procedure,"[3] Avenoso added. The Council and European Parliament will now have to reach an agreement on a common text. Strong efforts are now needed from both the Hungarian Presidency on behalf of the EU Council and the European Parliament to reach what ETSC hopes will be a swift agreement. The final outcome should maximise the potential for this Directive to fulfil its main objective: save lives on Europe's roads.

Background:

The main objective of the new Directive is to introduce a system of exchanging information to enable the follow up of road safety related traffic offences committed by non-resident drivers. The swift adoption of the Directive would introduce equal treatment of foreign and resident drivers and most importantly, save lives on Europe's roads. The Council of EU transport ministers reached a political agreement on the Directive in December 2010.

For more information please contact ETSC Communications Officer Mircea Steriu at mircea.steriu@etsc.eu, or Policy Director Ellen Townsend at ellen.townsend@etsc.eu, tel. +32 (0)2 230.41.06 , fax +32 (0)2 230.42.15

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

[2] The Council Common Position was agreed on March 16 by the COREPER I Committee of Member States' permanent representatives to the EU and passed on to the Council Meeting of March 17 where it was approved without further debate.

[3] http://www.etsc.eu/documents/PR_UK%20Opt-In_Delayed_Final.pdf