



NEWS RELEASE

Road Safety Manifesto for the 2014 European Parliament Elections

19th of November 2013, Brussels – “Members of the European Parliament have a strong word to say when it comes to improving road safety in the EU. ETSC hopes the new MEPs – to be elected from the 22nd to the 25th of May next year – will show the leadership needed to sustainably curb the loss of life and limb on our roads,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC¹ Executive Director upon the publication of the Manifesto addressed to candidates for the next Parliamentary mandate.

The ETSC Manifesto for the May 2014 EP Elections is available here:
www.etsc.eu/documents/EP_Manifesto_for_Road_Safety.pdf

Successive EU Parliaments, including the outgoing one, have historically been strong road safety advocates. It will be instrumental that current MEP candidates also make road safety a priority for the 2014-2019 mandate. “There is both a moral and a financial imperative for EU decision-makers to strive towards the highest levels of road safety and to reduce intra-EU differences in risk on the roads,” said Mr. Avenoso. “The societal savings which can be unlocked through the reduction of the numbers of deaths and injuries are considerable, certainly outweighing the necessary investments to improve road safety,” he added.

Reaching the EU 2020 road safety target will depend in part also on the activities of newly elected MEPs, who must support and fuel the stepping up of efforts to improve road safety, both at the national and EU level. Moreover, reducing the number of road deaths is but part of improving road safety overall. Future MEPs should push the European Commission to follow up on the ‘First Milestone Towards a Serious Injury Strategy’ paper with a detailed roadmap of actions and a target for reducing the number of serious injuries on EU roads. “As deaths and serious injuries are two sides of the same problem, the same level of ambition should be shown in setting a target for both indicators. ETSC has proposed a 35% reduction target for serious injuries over the 2014-2020 period,²” said Mr. Avenoso.

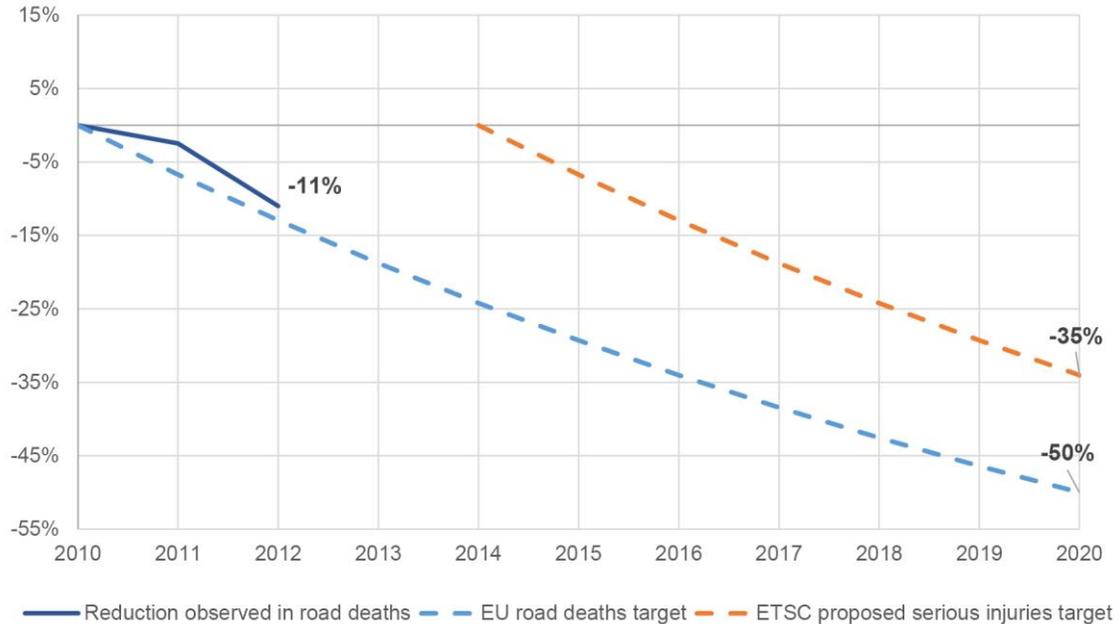
ETSC has identified speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, infrastructure safety and the safety of vulnerable road users as priority areas for action during the mandate of the next European Parliament. “Action in all of those areas carries significant potential to prevent deaths and serious injuries on EU roads. ETSC strongly believes future MEPs should support new policies, as well as the extension of existing initiatives, in these areas to address the most significant risk factors on EU roads,” concluded Mr. Avenoso.

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Notes to editors:

¹ 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 46 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.eu

²



Reduction in the number of road deaths (dark blue line) plotted against the EU target for 2020 (light blue line), with ETSC's recommended target for reduction in serious injuries (orange line).

For more information, please also consult:

[http://www.etsc.eu/documents/ETSC Response to EC First Milestone Towards an Injury Strategy May 2013.pdf](http://www.etsc.eu/documents/ETSC%20Response%20to%20EC%20First%20Milestone%20Towards%20an%20Injury%20Strategy%20May%202013.pdf)