



## NEWS RELEASE

### European Parliament calls for EU to tackle serious road traffic injuries

*3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2013, Brussels* – “ETSC congratulates the European Parliament for its political support to improve road safety by tackling road traffic serious injuries,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC<sup>1</sup> Executive Director. Today, MEPs supported the European Commission’s announcement of a common EU definition for road traffic serious injuries and issued a number of recommendations to the Member States and the Commission.<sup>2</sup>

The resolution adopted by the Parliament urges the European Commission to set an ambitious target for the reduction of road traffic serious injuries over the 2014-2020 period. ETSC has also been advocating for EU-wide targets to reduce serious injuries, set at the same level of ambition as road deaths.<sup>3</sup> On Monday, during the parliamentary debate on the resolution, Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas stated that he would like to see the success of setting an EU target for road deaths being replicated in reducing serious injuries.

Tackling serious injuries must prompt a focus on improving road safety in urban areas, particularly for vulnerable road users. More than half of those seriously injured on EU roads are pedestrians and other vulnerable road users, such as cyclists, who are involved in a collision in urban areas.<sup>4</sup> As such, ETSC believes that the safety of pedestrians and cyclists is an essential component of sustainable urban mobility and should hence be integrated into the upcoming EU urban mobility package. “Road safety, particularly of the most vulnerable road users, ought to be duly integrated into Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans from the drafting stage. We congratulate the Parliament for asking the EC to show strong leadership on road safety and make co-funding for urban transport projects conditional on setting road safety targets at the local level,” said Mr. Avenoso. ETSC believes that road infrastructure should be adapted to take into account high vulnerable road user traffic in urban areas. Moreover, the EU is in a strong position to improve road safety in urban areas through promoting and rolling out in-vehicle technologies such as Advanced Emergency Braking and Intelligent Speed Assistance.

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#### Notes to editors:

<sup>1</sup> 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 47 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. [www.etsc.eu](http://www.etsc.eu)

<sup>2</sup> The European Parliament’s resolution is available here:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=B7-2013-0318&language=EN>

<sup>3</sup> For more information, please see the ETSC response to the European Commission announcement of a common EU definition of serious injuries:

[http://www.etsc.eu/documents/ETSC\\_Response\\_to\\_EC\\_First\\_Milestone\\_Towards\\_an\\_Injury\\_Strategy\\_May\\_2013.pdf](http://www.etsc.eu/documents/ETSC_Response_to_EC_First_Milestone_Towards_an_Injury_Strategy_May_2013.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> To read the ETSC position on urban transport policy please click here:

[http://www.etsc.eu/documents/ETSC\\_Position\\_on\\_Urban\\_Transport\\_June\\_2013.pdf](http://www.etsc.eu/documents/ETSC_Position_on_Urban_Transport_June_2013.pdf)