

NEWS RELEASE

Brussels, 8 December 2004

European drivers keen on enforcement

Three in four European drivers (76%) are "in favour" or "strongly in favour" of more police enforcement, according to the latest SARTRE survey¹ published last week. Drivers support enhanced efforts especially in those countries where levels of enforcement are low (e.g. Italy, Ireland).

The European Transport Safety Council launches today a new publication 'Enforcement Monitor' reporting on progress in a first set of 6 countries, including safer countries such as Sweden, Denmark and Finland as well as countries with a higher road risk such as Hungary, France and Belgium.

With its Enforcement Monitor, ETSC will keep a close eye on how different Member States implement the European Commission's Recommendation² on the enforcement of speed, alcohol and seat belt legislation. The 'Monitor' is part of a larger Enforcement Programme, started in September this year, in which ETSC also promotes compliance enhancing vehicle technologies such as speed limiters, alcohol interlocks and seat belt reminders, as well as the safer roads to curb speeds.

Especially striking progress has been made by France, which has seen a dramatic increase in compliance with speed limits, alcohol and seat belt regulation mainly through improved police checks, in combination with increased penalties and public awareness. The results show that in 2003, 1.597 lives were saved, 173 through increased seat belt use alone.

"European drivers are aware of the benefits of enforcement, and governments mustn't be shy to increase checks. Recent experience in France has shown that measures can be highly effective if they are well explained and publicised," said Jörg Beckmann, ETSC's Executive Director.

For more information on ETSC's Enforcement Programme, please check our website www.etsc.be/enforcement or contact Ellen Townsend programme@etsc.be or Franziska Achterberg information@etsc.be, tel. + 32 (0) 2 230 4106.

¹ The SARTRE survey collects data on drivers' attitudes towards different behaviours and road safety measures, including legislation, enforcement, education and infrastructure improvement. It has been carried out three times since 1991, with more and more countries taking part in it. See <http://sartre.inrets.fr/>.

² Commission Recommendation of 6 April 2004 on enforcement in the field of road safety *Official Journal L 111*, 17/04/2004 P. 0075 – 0082

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of transport crashes and casualties in Europe. ETSC seeks to identify and promote effective measures on the basis of international scientific research and best practice. It brings together 26 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.