



NEWS RELEASE

ETSC Members Mark Twentieth Anniversary

21st of November 2013, Berlin – Today ETSC¹ members marked the 20th anniversary of the founding of ETSC. The three founding members – the German Road Safety Council, the Dutch Safety Board and the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety – established the European Transport Safety Council in 1993 addressing growing concerns about transport safety in the European Community.

“Today we mark 20 years of concerted advocacy efforts, both by the ETSC in Brussels and its member organisations throughout Europe,” said Herman De Croo, ETSC Chairman. “It is important to acknowledge the work of our members² and experts, as without them the European Transport Safety Council could not exist. With 46 organisations currently taking an active role in our work, it is certain that ETSC is an established source of independent and impartial advice to policy and decision-makers in Europe,” he said.

Yet this anniversary should primarily constitute a reminder that a considerable number of people in Europe still die in transport every day, the majority of them on the roads. “We have seen encouraging progress, particularly in reducing the annual numbers of road deaths, but we should still remind ourselves of the major task at hand,³” said Antonio Avenoso, Executive Director. “The two EU targets for reducing the number of road deaths, for 2010 and 2020, which were strongly supported and advocated by ETSC, have been very useful in concentrating and highlighting efforts to improve road safety. The Road Safety PIN, the ETSC flagship project, has been identifying well-performing countries since 2006 and widely sharing good practice in tackling road safety challenges. Yet, even if the EU target was reached, some 15,000 people would still die on the roads in 2020. This should remind all of us that improving transport safety requires constant efforts, and gains are only sustainable if policy efforts are maintained,” he added.

Since the EU has legislative competences in road safety – following the adoption of the Treaty of Maastricht – several pieces of legislation promoted by ETSC have been approved, with far reaching implications and a considerable life saving potential. These include, among others, a substantial increase of the EU budget dedicated to transport safety, type approval legislation for safer vehicles in the EU, the Infrastructure Safety Management Directive, or the newly entered-into-force Directive on the Cross Border Enforcement of road safety related traffic offences. Furthermore, earlier this year the EC announced a common definition for those seriously injured in road traffic, a long-standing ETSC request. “Looking back, the situation today is definitely better than when we started, but the fact remains that most of the deaths and injuries occurring in Europe can and should be prevented. Knowing this, we hope to successfully continue to work hand in hand with experts and policy-makers to make transport safer for all,” concluded Mr. Avenoso.

Background

The anniversary followed the annual high-level European Transport Safety Lecture which addressed the link between reliable data and effective policies to improve road safety. The Lecture was delivered by Prof. Dietmar Otte of the Medical University of Hannover, with

responses coming from Szabolcs Schmidt, head of the Road Safety Unit within the European Commission and by Prof. Fred Wegman of the Delft University of Technology. More information about the lecture is available here: <http://www.etsc.eu/etsl.php>.

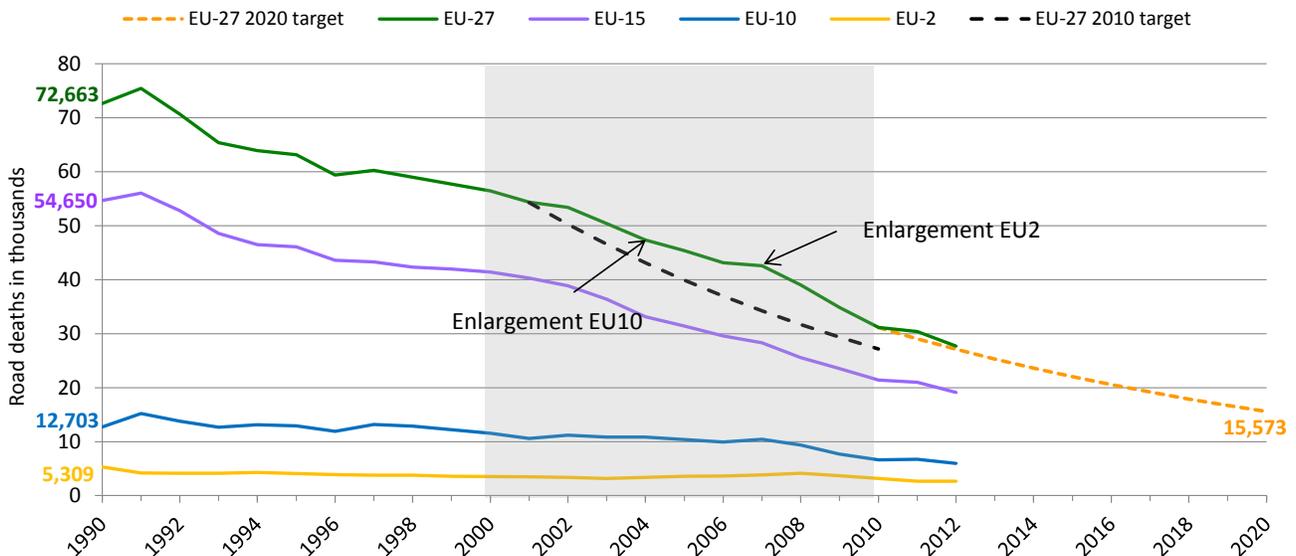
For more information please contact ETSC Communications Manager Mircea Steriu at mircea.steriu@etsc.eu, or Policy Director Ellen Townsend at ellen.townsend@etsc.eu, tel. +32 (0)2 230.41.06.

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 The full list of ETSC members is available at: <http://www.etsc.eu/members.php>

³



Reduction in road deaths since 1990 in the EU27 (green line), the EU15 (purple line), the EU10 (blue line) and the EU2 (Bulgaria and Romania, yellow line).