



NEWS RELEASE

Ireland showcases credentials to remain a road safety champion in Europe

27 June 2013, Dublin – “The improvements in Irish road safety show that it should be recognised as a road safety champion in the EU,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC¹ Executive Director at the Road Safety PIN² Talk organised in Dublin, in cooperation with the Road Safety Authority, under the auspices of the Irish Presidency of the EU. “We are very happy to see that the new Irish Road Safety Strategy is looking to build upon this progress, which ETSC has recognised through the 2010 Road Safety PIN Award,” Mr Avenoso added.

The PIN Talk in Dublin, the 35th in the series started by ETSC in 2006, focused on ways of further improving road safety in Ireland. Mircea Steriu, ETSC Communications Manager, presented the latest road safety developments at the European level and underlined the role of constructive competition and exchange of good practices among Member States in improving road safety. Prof. Richard Allsop, the Chairman of the PIN Programme presented results from PIN placing the Irish road safety situation in the EU context. Ireland ranks 5th out of the 27 EU Member States in reducing road deaths between 2001 and 2012, but only 15th in reducing deaths among younger road users, those aged 15-30. Jesper Sølund of the Danish Road Safety Council presented the policies which led to Denmark receiving the 2013 PIN Road Safety Award and also outlined ways of moving forward with an ambitious vision for 2020.

Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport welcomed the ETSC’s report on road safety in Ireland. “Road safety has been a priority from the start for this Government. This detailed research from the ETSC will help us to make further progress. Ireland is currently in fifth place for road deaths in the EU, but we want to make it the safest country. This ETSC report also coincides with the publication of the Road Traffic Bill 2013, which will bring in new laws like roadside impairment testing for drug driving, and provisions for a new class of ‘Novice’ driving licences.”

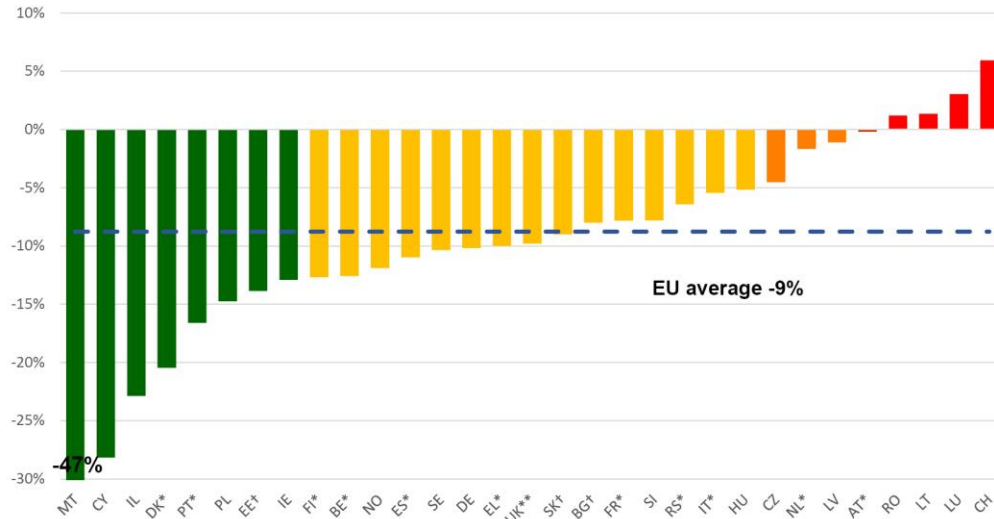
Mr. Noel Brett, CEO, Road Safety Authority said, “The Road Safety Authority is delighted that the ETSC has decided to host its Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Talk in Dublin. The talk marks the end of Ireland’s Presidency of the EU from a road safety perspective and places Ireland’s road safety performance in a European context. While Ireland has made some great strides in recent years, to lower the number of people dying and being seriously injured on the roads, there is still much work still to be done. 162 road deaths were recorded in 2012 and this is an unacceptably high number. Ireland’s newly launched Road Safety Strategy 2013 to 2020 aims to have 124 or fewer road deaths by 2020 or 25 deaths per million inhabitants.”

“As ETSC we are positively impressed by the energy and enthusiasm Irish stakeholders put into improving road safety here. The very name of your new Strategy: *Closing the gap*, shows a deep understanding of one of our most important messages to stakeholders: In road safety work there should be no complacency!” said Mr Avenoso in his concluding remarks.

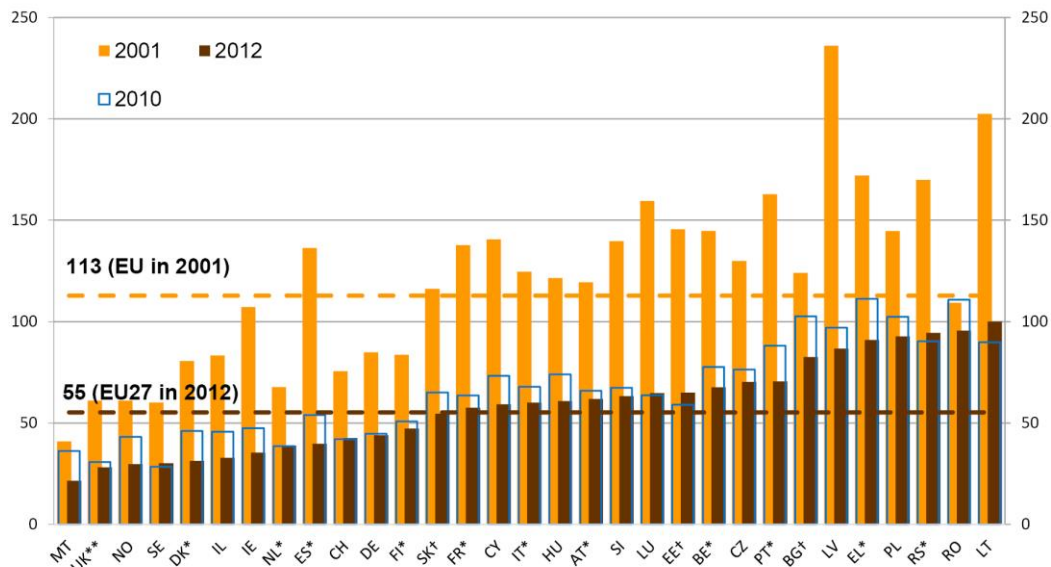
For further inquiries, please contact ETSC Communications Manager Mircea Steriu, mircea.steriu@etsc.eu, +32(0)2 230 4106.

Background

Percentage change in road deaths between 2011 and 2012:



Road deaths per million inhabitants in 2012 (with road deaths per million inhabitants in 2001 and 2010 for comparison).



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

² The Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Programme was launched in June 2006 to compare country road safety performances. It currently includes the 27 countries of the EU, as well as Israel, Norway, the Republic of Serbia and Switzerland. The Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) programme receives financial support from Volvo Group, Volvo Trucks, the Swedish Transport Administration, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration and Toyota Motor Europe. www.etsc.eu/PIN.php