

NEWS RELEASE

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Hungary Receives Road Safety PIN Award 2012

Road Deaths Cut by 49% in Hungary since 2001

20 June 2012, Brussels – “It is my pleasure to present this year’s PIN Award to Hungary¹. Since 2006, the countries that have received the PIN Award have lived up to our expectations and I am positive the Hungarian experience will provide a strong impetus and the motivation needed to augment road safety efforts, for both its neighbours and the EU as a whole²,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC³ Executive Director at the PIN Award Ceremony held during the 6th Annual Conference of the Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Project⁴. The Award for Hungary was jointly received by Dr. László Felkai, State Secretary at the Ministry of Interior, and Mr. Zoltán Schváb, Deputy State Secretary responsible for infrastructure at the Ministry of National Development.

Hungary has reduced its number of road deaths by 49% since 2001. “It is particularly important to note that Hungary signed up to the EU road safety target only in 2004 when they joined the European Union, so the Hungarian progress is even more commendable,” said Mr. Avenoso. Mr. Felkai and Mr. Schváb paid tribute to the good cooperation between the relevant stakeholders and mentioned how the policies implemented by the Hungarian authorities contributed to the road safety improvements.

Mr. Felkai detailed the role of policies such as automated speed enforcement and introducing a zero tolerance to drink driving. He also mentioned how vehicle owner liability and the system of administrative sanctions contributed to better enforcement of traffic laws, complementing the efforts of the traffic police.

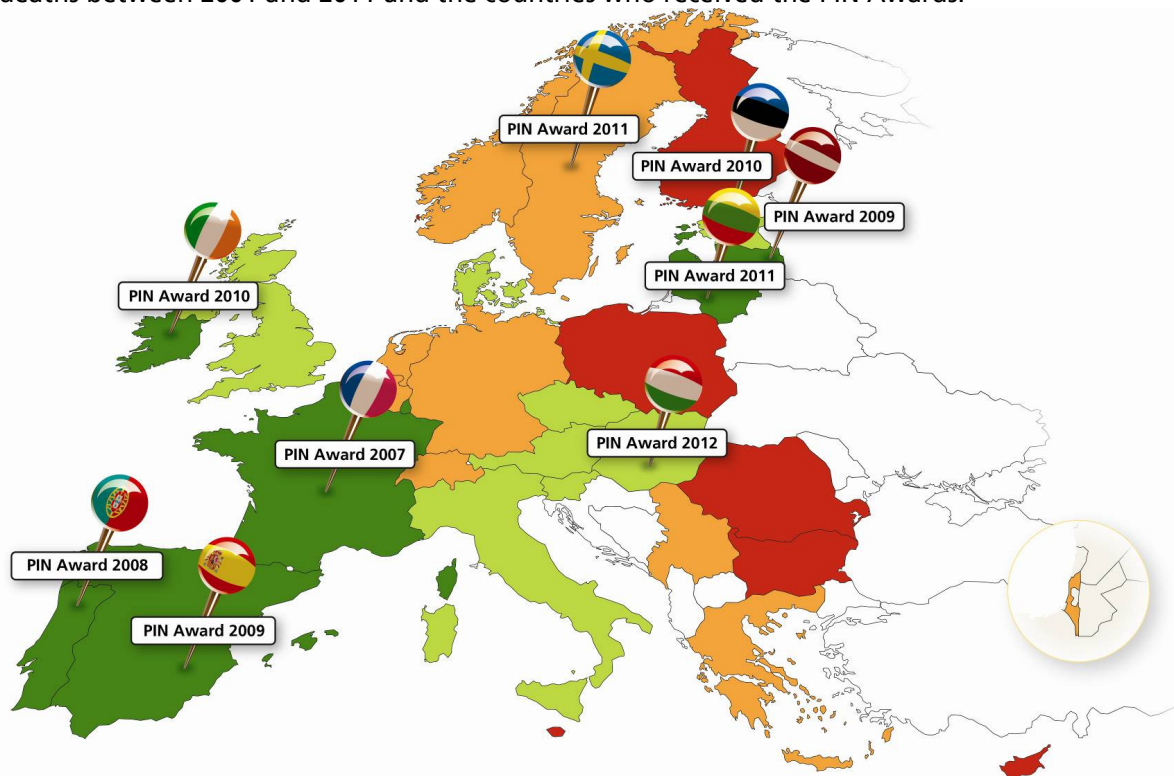
During the first half of 2011 the Hungarian EU Presidency brokered the final compromise text which led to the subsequent adoption of the Cross-Border Enforcement Directive (2011/82/EU). Given Hungary’s position as a transit country, Mr. Felkai underlined how this legislation will improve EU-wide cooperation and will facilitate the follow-up of offences committed by foreign drivers.

While the reduction in the number of deaths on Hungarian roads is laudable, road mortality still remains high, with 64 deaths per million inhabitants in 2011. Mr. Schváb acknowledged this challenge and identified several groups of road users that Hungarian policy-makers must address through targeted policies. Mr. Felkai and Mr. Schváb were also keen to highlight the focus areas of the current Hungarian road safety action programme: addressing dangerous road user behaviour, better road management and engineering, evaluating and updating road safety related legislation and increasing enforcement and preventative activities.⁵

Detailed figures for Hungary are available in ETSC 6th PIN Report *A Challenging Start towards the EU 2020 Road Safety Target* under www.etsc.eu/PIN-publications.php. For further enquiries, please contact PIN Programme Manager Graziella Jost, graziella.jost@etsc.eu, or ETSC Communications Officer Mircea Steriu, mircea.steriu@etsc.eu, mob. +32(0)4 98.51.65.62, +32 (0)4 84.38.05.79.

¹ On 20 June 2012, the **Road Safety PIN Award for Outstanding Progress in Road Safety 2012** was given to Dr. László Felkai, State Secretary, Ministry of Interior, and Mr. Zoltán Schváb, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of National Development of Hungary. The **6th PIN Conference speakers' presentations**, including the presentations from Dr. Felkai and Mr. Schváb, will be available at www.etsc.eu/PIN-events.php

² Map of the 31 countries covered by the PIN programme showing the percentage change in road deaths between 2001 and 2011 and the countries who received the PIN Awards.



³ **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 45 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.eu

⁴ **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) receives financial support from the Volvo Group and Volvo Trucks. The PIN also receives financial support from the Swedish Transport Administration, the Norwegian Public Roads Administration and Toyota Motor Europe. www.etsc.eu/PIN

⁵ Dr. Felkai and Mr. Schváb present what Hungary has done to receive the PIN Award in ETSC 6th PIN Report *A Challenging Start towards the EU 2020 Road Safety Target*. www.etsc.eu/PIN-publications.php