

NEWS RELEASE
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The Mid-term Review of the 3rd Road Safety Action Plan: Off target ?

The European Transport Safety Council⁽¹⁾ welcomes the adoption today of the Mid-term Review of the 3rd Road Safety Action Programme⁽²⁾. Unfortunately for road safety stakeholders, the Review is a disappointment as the European Commission has not kept its promise to propose legislation if there was not a significant drop in the number of deaths.

Despite some laudable isolated national achievements, EU road safety policy is far from a success story and the gap between the best- and the worst-performing Member States is widening. In 2005, the Commission estimates that approximately 41600 people were killed on European roads, which means a reduction of only 17.5% since 2001, some way off the 25% needed for the EU to be on course to achieve the target of halving road deaths by 2010.

"The EU can no longer delay and fail to implement known and affordable safety measures" says Jörg Beckmann, ETSC Executive Director. "Sharing responsibility can not be a way of ignoring or delegating responsibility".

The European Commission must adopt a Directive on infrastructure safety. A High-level meeting on infrastructure safety, organized by the Austrian Presidency in January, stressed that such a Directive would allow a substantial improvement of the road network.

The Commission should table without delay the live saving Directives promised on retrofitting of blind spot mirrors for trucks and on daytime running lights. It should also introduce a Directive to tackle cross-border enforcement of traffic law.

The Commission should also support Member States' efforts to promote the use of in-vehicle technologies such as seat belt reminders and alcohol interlocks, and to stimulate the development of intelligent speed adaptation and data recording devices.

The Austrian Presidency has identified road safety as one of its transport sector priorities. Yet, if the Commission does not use its right of initiative, the failure to deliver this priority will not be the Austrian Presidency's but the Commission's.

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Notes to Editors:

- (1) 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 30 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.
- (2) [For the EC press release including links to the Communication see: http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/202&type=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en](http://www.europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/202&type=HTML&aged=0&language=FR&guiLanguage=en) . For an ETSC Briefing on the review see www.etsc.be/briefings