



NEWS RELEASE

Brussels, 30th September 2005

Parliament shows the Commission Political leadership on road safety

With its vote last night adopting a report on the road safety action programme the European Parliament demonstrated political leadership sadly missing from the European Commission. Strongly urging action on a range of measures, the European Parliament report⁽²⁾ highlights the need to move away from words and towards action. This is a message that the European Commission urgently needs to hear given its recent decision to postpone a review of the action programme from the middle of this year to the start of next year. This delay is important because it needlessly postpones legislative proposals the Commission would wish to adopt at the same time as the review⁽³⁾.

"Ensuring that the review of the programme is rigorous and follows a review of the common transport policy is a worthy aim, but delaying both the review and actions that are both known to be needed and previously promised fails to demonstrate political leadership" stated Jörg Beckmann, ETSC Executive Director. "The Vote by the European Parliament underscores the need for the Commission to re-examine its priorities so that it can effectively give the leadership necessary to drastically reduce the deaths and injuries on Europe's roads" he added.

For more information contact: ETSC Policy Officer Frazer Goodwin
policy@etsc.be Tel. + 32 (0) 2 230 4106

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 29 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.

(2) The programme aims to reduce by half the numbers dying on EU roads during this decade. By 2010 this would mean that road deaths would be cut by 26,000 a year. The Parliament report (reporteur Ari Vartenen) calls for action on each of the pillars of road safety – the behaviour of the driver, the standards of vehicles and of roads.

(3) The Commission has promised a package on infrastructure since the adoption of the action programme in 2003, and have also promised a measure to introduce mandatory day-time running lights with the review.