European Transport Safety Council

NEWS RELEASE
Brussels, 15 September 2006

"Press visit - Safe and sober! Drink Driving checks in Germany"

When: Friday 22 September 2006,
Where: Aachen region, North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany)

Drink Driving is the second greatest cause of road deaths in the EU. If 2-3% of journeys are associated with an illegal BAC, this affects 30-40% of road deaths, many of them innocent people. Police drink driving enforcement has been proven to be an effective tool to promote a sober and safe way of driving(1). It is therefore crucial to carry out intensive and widespread alcohol checks by the police.

Although the number of drink driving related deaths and injuries has dropped in the last decade in Germany (-14% from 2003 to 2004), there is still a long way to go to take drink drivers off the road. Also, random breath testing has proven to be a very effective means of deterring drink-driving in many European countries. Unfortunately, as the case for some other EU countries, Germany has not yet introduced such a measure.

A public consultation(2) by the European Commission on a Directive to enhance co-operation on the cross border enforcement of traffic offences (including drink driving) is around the corner. ETSC(3) stresses for the need to ensure that all Member States are aiming to achieve high standards in the areas of speeding, drink driving and seat belt use according to the best practice set out in the EC Recommendation on enforcement.

The European Transport Safety Council (www.etsc.be) would like to invite journalists on a tour to observe live police enforcement operations in North Rhine-Westphalia.

For information and to join please contact Mr. Timmo Janitzek (+49-175-4013248 or +32 2 230 4106) for exact information on meeting point, schedule of police checks and times.

For more information please contact ETSC Project Officer Timmo Janitzek, timmo.janitzek@etsc.be, tel. +32 2 230 4106 or visit www.etsc.be.

Notes to Editors:

(1) More information on the drink driving enforcement across the EU: ETSC publication, "Traffic Law Enforcement Across the EU-An Overview".

http://www.etsc.be/documents/Traffic_Law_Enforcement_in_the_EU_An_Overview_May_2006_ETSC.pdf

(2) Commission Recommendation on enforcement in the field of road safety (2004)
http://europa.eu.int/smartapi/cgi/sga_doc?smartapi!celexplus!prod!CELEXnumdoc&lg=en&numdoc=32004H0345

(3) The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), founded in 1993 is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of the number and severity of transport crashes in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 35 national and international organisations in membership, leading transport safety experts from across Europe. www.etsc.be