European Transport Safety Council

NEWS RELEASE
Brussels, 22 September 2006

"Press launch - Ranking EU countries' progress in road safety"

When: Tuesday 26 September 2006 from 10.30 to 12.00
Where: Finnish Permanent Representation to the EU, Rue de Trèves 100, 1040 Brussels

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)[1] invites you to the presentation of the first ranking published under the Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) [2].

Fast progress in road safety is possible for every EU country, whatever its starting point. Over the last four years, France, Luxembourg and Belgium have been able to cut road deaths by more than 25%. France is the leading example showing a 35% drop in road deaths between 2001 and 2005. Among the countries which have not made any noteworthy progress are Lithuania, Hungary, Ireland and Poland.

Those countries showing the most remarkable results achieved this through a combination of factors: strong political leadership, raising compliance with traffic safety law, increasing public awareness for road safety and improving infrastructure.

Panelists at the press launch will include: Juha Valtonen, Senior Engineer, Ministry of Transport, on behalf of the Finnish Presidency; Jean Chapelon, General Secretary of the Interministerial Road Safety Observatory, France; Renaat Landuyt, Federal Minister for Mobility and Transport, President of the Belgium Road Safety Institute, Belgium; Sam Weissen, Transport Councellor, Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU; and Franziska Achterberg, PIN Programme Director at ETSC.

For more information please contact PIN Officer, Graziella Jost, graziella.jost@etsc.be, tel. +32 2 230 4106.

Notes to Editors:

(1) 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

(2) More information on the Road Safety Performance Index (PIN): http://www.etsc.be/PIN.php