PRESS BREAKFAST INVITATION
18 December 2007, 10h00-11h00
ETSC office, Avenue des Celtes 20, B-1040, Brussels

MOTORCYCLIST DEATHS IN EUROPE
Worrying trends require urgent measures

A motorcyclist has a 18 times higher risk of being killed in a road accident than a car driver. This is just one of the striking findings from the latest report on motorcycling in Europe completed by ETSC in the framework of its Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) programme. On 18 December ETSC and the Austrian Road Safety Board (KfV) are hosting a breakfast briefing for the media to present a breakdown of the hard facts and news to the public.

Between 2001 and 2006, Powered Two Wheelers (PTW) rider deaths decreased on average by less than 1.5% yearly across Europe, in contrast to car driver deaths reduction of 4%, which is a far from sufficient rate in itself. The European Commission has already voiced a concern that at the current rate of motorcycling deaths every third road accident will involve a PTW rider by 2025.

What is happening to motorcyclist safety? Where in Europe is it more or less dangerous to ride, and by how much? How could countries with worse records learn from safer ones? What needs to be done by policy-makers in Member States and at EU level? This Road Safety PIN Flash 7 probes and answers these and many more questions. Here is just a glimpse of some of its findings:

- ***For the same distance traveled, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark and Finland are the least dangerous places to ride, whereas Central and Eastern European countries are the most dangerous.***
- ***Over the past decade, the highest reductions in PTW deaths were recorded in Latvia, Estonia and Portugal. In thirteen other countries, however, the numbers of PTW deaths went up over the past ten years.***
- ***While the risk of a rider being killed in a road accident is on average 16 times the corresponding risk for a car driver, the by-country variation in this ratio is striking: from 6 times in Norway to 50 times in Slovenia!***

To answer your questions:

Richard Allsop, PIN Programme Chairman, University College London
Martin Winkelbauer, Senior Researcher, Austrian Road Safety Board (KfV)
Graziella Jost, PIN Programme Manager, ETSC

ETSC staff will be happy to welcome you in our new offices at Avenue des Celtes 20, Brussels on the occasion of this press briefing during which a French breakfast, with café and croissants, will be served to help the press get started in the morning.

PLEASE CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION **BEFORE MONDAY 17 December 12h00** to ETSC Communications Officer Evgueni Pogorelov at evgueni.pogorelov@etsc.be, tel. +32 2 230 4106.