



European Transport Safety Council

NEWS RELEASE

## Irish Presidency of the EU: Road Safety in the Spotlight

**18<sup>th</sup> January 2013, Brussels – “Ireland, as one of the recipients of the PIN Road Safety Award in 2010, has been recognised internationally as one of the good performers in the EU. We have high-hopes the Presidency team will bring their political leadership to the fore at a time when road safety must be highlighted as a priority area for policy makers,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC<sup>1</sup> Executive Director<sup>2</sup>. “Further down the road, the road safety policy dossiers the Irish Presidency will handle are likely to impact whether or not the EU reaches its 2020 road safety target,” he added.**

“The Irish progress during the past years is good proof they understand that complacency is not an option in road safety policy-making. They provide a good practice example for EU Member States and we hope the Irish Presidency will broker agreements on a number of road safety dossiers,” said Mr. Avenoso. “ETSC is happy to note the Presidency has already identified serious injuries as an area of priority, and we hope the European Commission will publish an ambitious and comprehensive strategy on road traffic injuries and emergency services. ETSC continues to support challenging EU-wide targets for reducing the number of serious injuries, recommending that they should be set at the same levels as the targets for road deaths,” Mr. Avenoso concluded.

### Background

Ireland has observed a steady reduction in the number of road deaths being one of the good performers in Europe. It has 47 deaths per million inhabitants, while the EU average is 60. A new Irish Strategic Plan for 2012-2020 is expected to be launched during the Presidency, setting the task of making Ireland’s roads as safe as the best performing countries in the EU. Ireland has received the “2010 Road Safety PIN Award” at the 4<sup>th</sup> ETSC Road Safety PIN Conference in Brussels as recognition of their sustained efforts in reducing road deaths.

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<sup>1</sup> ETSC is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to reducing the numbers of deaths and injuries in transport in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 47 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. [www.etsc.eu](http://www.etsc.eu)

<sup>2</sup> ETSC Memorandum to the Irish Presidency of the EU  
[http://www.etsc.eu/documents/IE\\_Presidency\\_Memo.pdf](http://www.etsc.eu/documents/IE_Presidency_Memo.pdf)