



NEWS RELEASE

European Transport Safety Council Hosts 'Safe and Sober' Seminar in Dublin - Demonstration of Alcohol Interlock Device for Employers -

26 September 2012, Prague – The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)¹ held its 24th 'Safe and Sober' seminar in Prague today. The seminar, which was jointly hosted by ETSC and the Czech Transport Research Centre (CDV), is part of the ETSC's EU-wide campaign on drink driving.

The 'Safe and Sober' seminars, which are supported by Volvo Trucks and Alcohol Countermeasures System (ACS), are organised by the ETSC in selected European countries. The purpose of the seminars is to bring together road safety stakeholders, experts and organisations in order to raise awareness among employers of drink driving in the workplace, particularly in the commercial transport industry, and to explore measures to address this high risk behaviour. Today's seminar was followed by a demonstration of an alcohol interlock device which is widely used in the commercial transport industry throughout the EU. The device prevents a vehicle from starting if alcohol is detected on the driver's breath.

Mr. Antonio Avenoso, Executive Director, ETSC said: "Drink driving is a contributory factor in as many as 7,500 road deaths in the EU every year. Furthermore, approximately 20% of driver deaths are thought to be caused by drink driving. The Czech Republic is ahead of many EU countries by imposing a Zero BAC limit for all drivers, but, sadly, alcohol-related deaths still occur on Czech roads. The purpose of today's seminar is to look at measures such as alcohol interlocks that can be implemented by employers to reduce road risk, particularly alcohol-related, among the employees who drive as part of their work."

Among the speakers at today's conference were representatives from the ETSC, the CDV, the Czech Traffic Police, the Dutch Transport Ministry, the Finnish Transport Safety Agency, Volvo Trucks, ACS and other private companies. Several of the speakers presented their experience in successfully designing and implementing alcohol interlock programmes, in either public or private settings.

Further information on the ETSC's 'Safe and Sober' campaign is available at www.etsc.eu

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¹ 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 45 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.eu