European Transport Safety Council

NEWS RELEASE
Brussels, 7 November 2006

First Road Safety PIN Talk to be held in Greece

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)[1] and its Greek member, the Road Safety Institute Panos Mylonas (RSI Panos Mylonas)[2] are organising the first Road Safety PIN Talk in Athens on the 15th of November 2006. Decision makers, distinguished speakers and experts have been invited to this dialogue on how to improve road user behaviour in Greece.

Speakers include amongst others Minister **Michalis Liapis**, Minister **Vyron Polydoras**, MP **Aris Stathakis**, MP **Yannis Maniatis**, **Christos Ntzoufras**, Director of Traffic Police, **Nikos Papaefstathiou**, President of EKAB, **George Skourtis**, President of the Union of Insurance Companies, **Vassilis Despotopoulos**, President of ELPA (Automobile and Touring Club), Prof. **George Kanellaidis** and Ass. Prof. **George Yannis** from National Technical University of Athens, **Prof. Aristotelis Naniopoulos**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, **Ioannis Frantseskakis**, Senior Transport Engineer, and **Ioannis Handanos,** President of the Hellenic Institute of Transportation Engineers.

A first ranking published recently under the Road Safety Performance Index (PIN)[3] shows that fast progress in road safety is possible for every country, whatever its starting point. Over the last four years, France has achieved an outstanding 35% drop, closely followed by Luxembourg with 34% and Belgium with 27%. According to ETSC findings, Greece has a very low level of safety, ranking third worst country among the EU-25 in terms of road deaths per million of inhabitants[4]. The country has however started to learn from other countries' experiences and was able to reduce road deaths by 14% between 2001 and 2005[5].

The discussion of the 15 November 2006 will focus on the achievements and weaknesses of Greek road safety policy against the background of other European countries, the use of road safety performance indicators and the measures that need to be taken to improve road user behaviour in the area of speeding, drink driving and non use of safety restraints.

More detailed information can be found on the **Road Safety PIN** on www.etsc.be/PIN. For more information on the PIN Talk please contact: Mrs Vassiliki Danelli Mylonas (+30-210-8620150 or +30-697-7207756) or Ms. Graziella Jost (+32 2 230 41 06 or +32 498 51 65 62).

Road Safety PIN

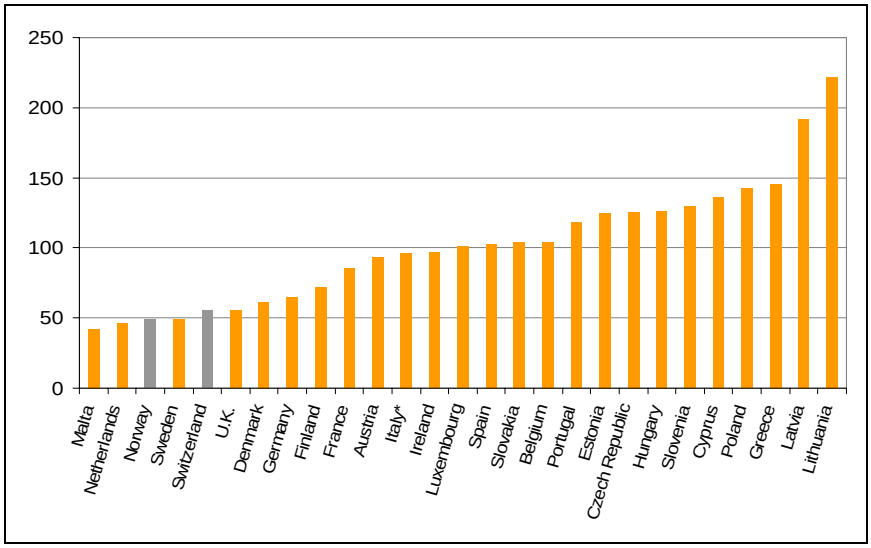
Notes to Editors:

[1] The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of transport crashes and casualties in Europe. ETSC seeks to identify and promote effective measures on the basis of international scientific research and best practice. It brings together 35 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.

[2] The Road Safety Institute Panos Mylonas (RSI Panos Mylonas) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the prevention and reduction of traffic accidents in Greece. The RSI Panos Mylonas brings together academic institutions, public organizations and private companies concerned with transport safety in Greece in collaboration with national and international organisations.

[3] The Road Safety Performance Index was set up in June 2006 to compare Member States' performance in all areas of road safety. It receives financial support from Swedish Road Administration and Toyota Motor Europe. The PIN Talk in Greece is kindly supported by Toyota Hellas. See www.etsc.be/PIN.

[4] Road deaths 2005 (per million population). Source: Eurostat, national data



[5] Reduction in road deaths 2001-2005 (except Italy). Source: CARE and national data

