European Transport Safety Council

ETSC's Transport Safety Lunch on Vulnerable riders
26 May 2008

REPORT

Prof. Herman De Croo, MP, Minister of State, President of ETSC welcomed the participants and introduced the speakers on the panel:

- Isabelle Kardacz, Head of Road Safety Unit, European Commission,
- John Chatterton Ross, Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM),
- Jacques Compagne, The Motorcycle Industry in Europe (ACEM),
- Martin Winkelbauer, Austrian Road Safety Board (KfV),
- Graziella Jost, European Transport Safety Council (ETSC).

The lunch was chaired by Antonio Avenoso, ETSC.

Graziella Jost presented the findings of the PIN Flash 7 on reducing motorcyclist deaths in Europe which highlighted the worrying trend of motorcyclists' deaths in Europe, the striking disparities in the risk of riding a PTW (Powered Two-Wheeler) between countries and the higher risk of PTW compared to car.

Martin Winkelbauer, co-chair of the ETSC's review on "Vulnerable riders", presented the set of 16 key recommendations presented in the report:

- The need to integrate PTWs in transport and safety plans and to improve availability and quality of (exposure) data on PTW (General recommendations);
- Traffic safety education, Rider and Driver training, Progressive access to PTWs, Helmet safety and Enforcement (in the area of Human behaviour),
- ABS and other advanced braking systems, further research on PTW conspicuity, ISA for PTWs, Airbags and leg protectors, Protective clothing, A-pillar design, side under-run protection (Vehicle and Equipment);
- Research in road design (in particular on curves and intersections, forward visibility and design), Road Safety Audit and Road Safety

Inspections addressing the needs of PTW riders, minimising roadside objects and improving the maintenance of road surfaces which should also be provided with maximum and consistent skid resistance.

Jacques Compagne provided the industry perspective on the role of manufacturers in improving PTW safety and pointed out the timely publication of the ETSC report in the context of the ongoing dialogue on urban safety. He stressed:

- The support of ACEM to all the recommendations produced by the ETSC,
- A slightly different view on Recommendation n.9 (Mandatory provision of ABS) and n.12 (Mandatory use of protective clothing in the long term) which would take more into consideration the diversity of vehicles, owners and purposes. ACEM's opinion is that ABS should not be mandatory for all PTWs and that appropriate personal protective equipment should take the diversity of users into consideration.

He mentioned that ACEM had already committed within the European Road Safety Charter to supply progressively PTWs with advanced braking systems taking into account PTWs different characteristics and that 31% of vehicles were fitted with these different advanced braking systems at the end of 2007.

He concluded his speech by listing safety initiatives and upcoming events of ACEM.

John Chatterton Ross presented the FIM and showed their particular commitment on drivers' training. He particularly welcomed and supported the general recommendation on the need of integrating PTW and users' needs in transport and safety plans.

Isabelle Kardacz, the newly appointed Head of Road Safety Unit at the European Commission elaborated on the main actions undertaken so far by the Commission in order to reduce the risk of PTW road users and on the future steps currently planned.

She also stressed the fact that road safety is one of the subjects of interest of Mr. Tajani, the new Italian Commissioner for transport.

She argued that the EU target is unlikely to be reached: nevertheless a lot of progress has been done since 2001. In response to a question raised by the

Chairman, Antonio Avenoso, drawing the attention to the very low progress in reducing PTW deaths compared to progress in reducing total number of deaths, she stated that apparently PTWs had not benefited from improvements made by the EU since 2001 and thus the safety of PTWs is an issue that clearly needs to be addressed in the forthcoming 4th Road Safety Action Programme. A particular emphasis will be given to PTW safety in an urban mobility context. As concluding statements she mentioned:

- The launch of a new project on urban safety and PTW (eSUM),
- A dedicated part of the Road Safety Day that will be held in Paris on 13 October 2008 on training and education.

Antonio Avenoso concluded the session by remarking that ETSC would certainly contribute with its inputs to the 4th RSAP and by stressing the fact that the EU needs a fresh impetus to reaching the 2010 fatalities reduction target.