



NEWS RELEASE

European Transport Safety Council Hosts 'Safe and Sober' Seminar in the Belgian Federal Parliament

5th of September 2013, Brussels – The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)¹ held its 27th event in the series of Safe and Sober events in the Belgian Federal Parliament today. “Our estimates show that approximately 6,500 road deaths could be prevented yearly if all drivers in the EU had obeyed the prevalent laws on drink driving. This is an impressive amount, showing that the good work done so far must continue to be supplemented with renewed efforts to tackle drink driving,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC Executive Director.

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 organised in cooperation with the Belgian Road Safety Institute (IBSR-BIVV) and the Flemish Foundation for road safety research (VSV).

“Our goal is to provide a forum for the exchange of good practices for professionals and decision-makers, thus advancing the fight to tackle drink driving,” said Mr. Avenoso. The seminar participants heard the experience from Finland and the Netherlands in devising and implementing alcohol interlock programmes to tackle drink driving. Moreover, Judge Eric Desmedt offered his feedback on the alcohol interlock programme currently being implemented in Belgium. An alcohol interlock is a device prevents a vehicle from starting if alcohol is detected on the driver’s breath.

Today’s seminar was followed by a demonstration of an alcohol interlock device widely used in the commercial transport industry throughout the EU.

For more information please contact ETSC Communications Manager Mircea Steriu at mircea.steriu@etsc.eu, or Project Manager Ilyas Daoud at ilyas.daoud@etsc.eu tel. +32 (0)2 230.41.06.

Notes to editors:

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