

# Tackling the Three Main Killers on the roads -

## A priority for the forthcoming EU Road Safety Action Programme

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# Tackling the Three Main Killers...

- **Speed, drink driving** and **non-use of seat belts** remain the three main killers on EU roads.
- Experience from fast progressing countries shows that **progress can be fast** and **save thousands of lives.**
- Progress is possible also for already good performing countries

# ... A priority

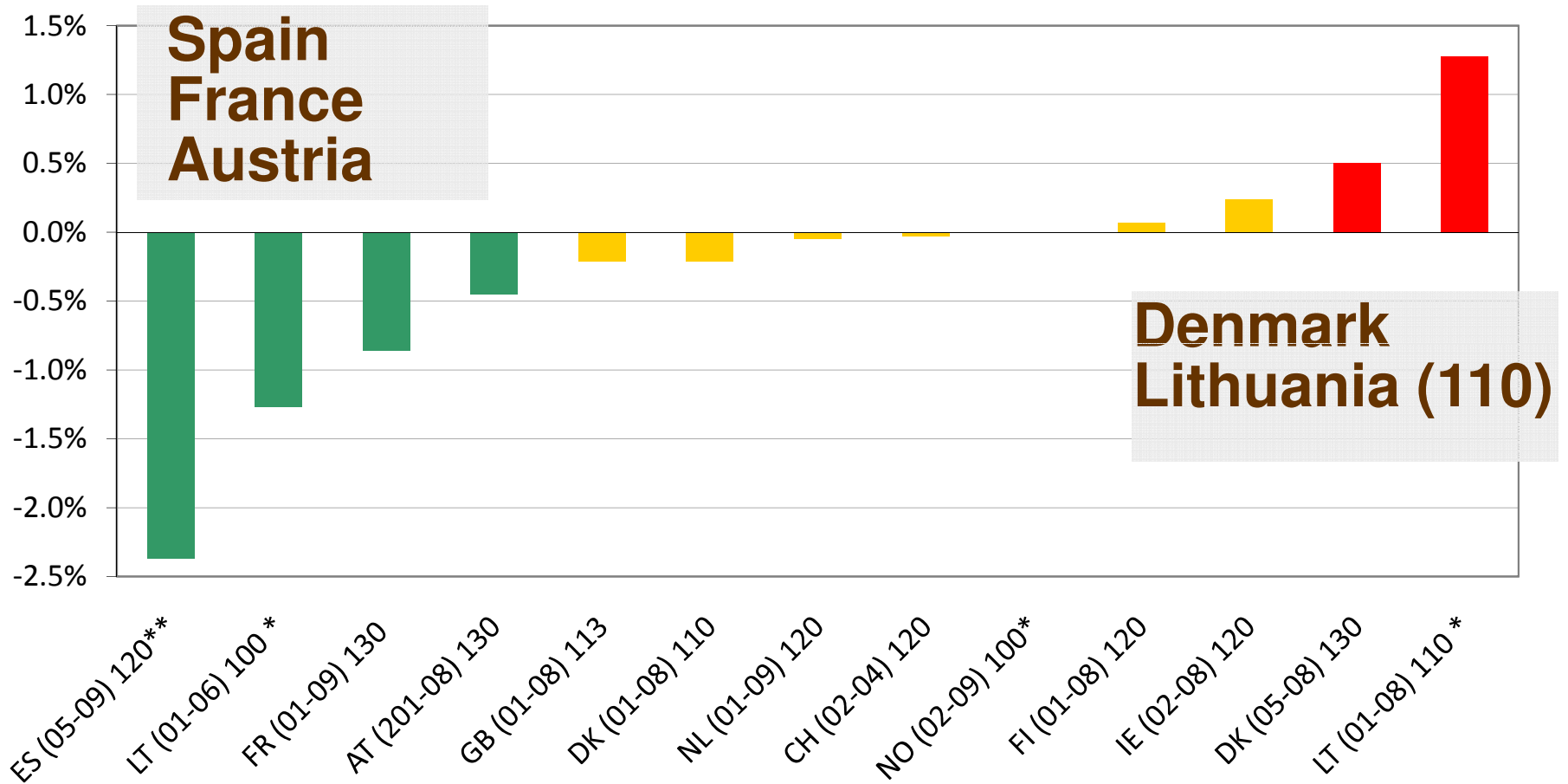
- More than **2,200** road deaths could be prevented each year if average driving **speeds** dropped by only **1km/h** on all roads across the EU.
- If, as estimated by the EC, 25% of road deaths occur in **drink driving accidents**, then at least **7,500** deaths could have been prevented.
- As many as **12,400** occupants of light vehicles survived serious crashes in 2009 across the EU, because they wore a **seat belt**.  
Another **2,500** deaths could have been prevented if 99% of occupants had been wearing a **seat belt**, a rate that could be reached with seat belt reminders.

# Progress in reducing speed

- **Drivers have slowed down since 2001**
- Best progress has been made on **motorways**: around **30%** of drivers exceed the speed limit on **motorways**
- But speed violations are still up to **70%** on **rural roads** (in Denmark and Poland) and as many as **80%** on **urban roads** (Poland).
- **France** is the only country to have achieved reduction in mean speeds on all road types.  
*Average speeds dropped by 10 km/h between 2001-2009 following the implementation of a fully automated speed management and safety camera system as part of the strategy to “end drivers’ impunity”.*

# SPEED on MOTORWAYS (I)

Yearly average % change in mean speeds of cars and vans on **motorways**

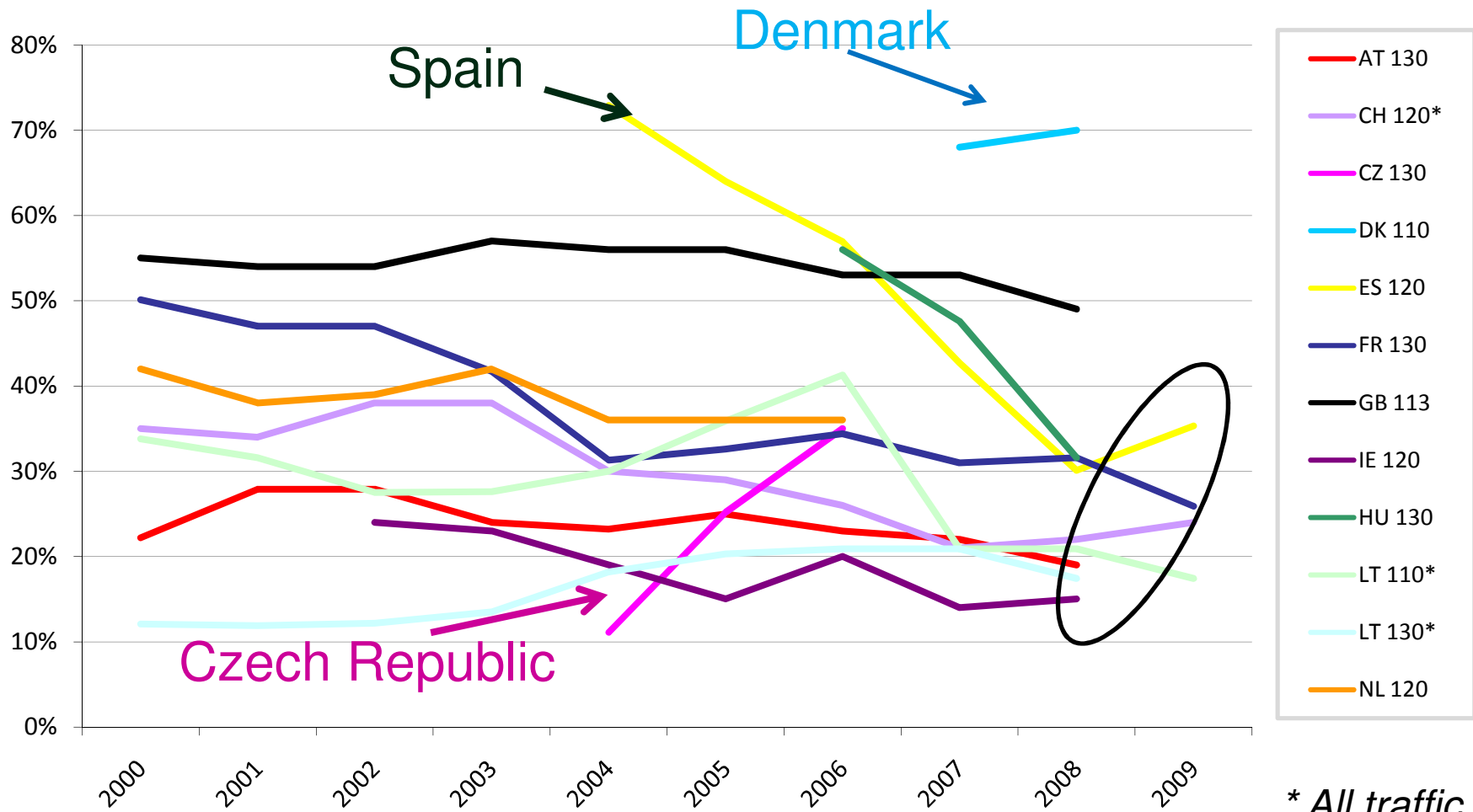


From earliest available baseline to latest available year \* All traffic

\*\* Spain: measurements made on 20% of the toll motorways length only

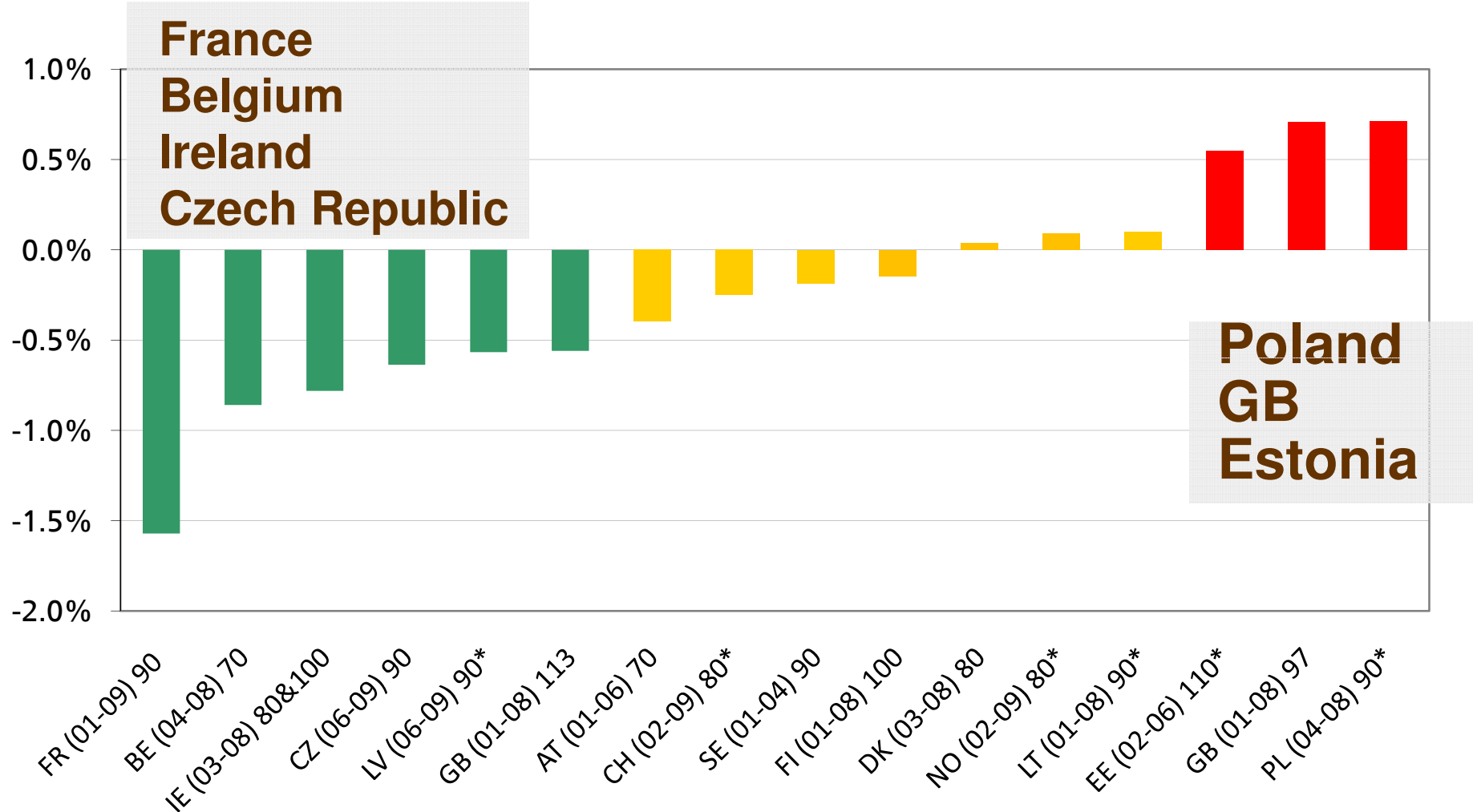
# SPEED on MOTORWAYS (II)

% of cars and vans exceeding the speed limits on **motorways**



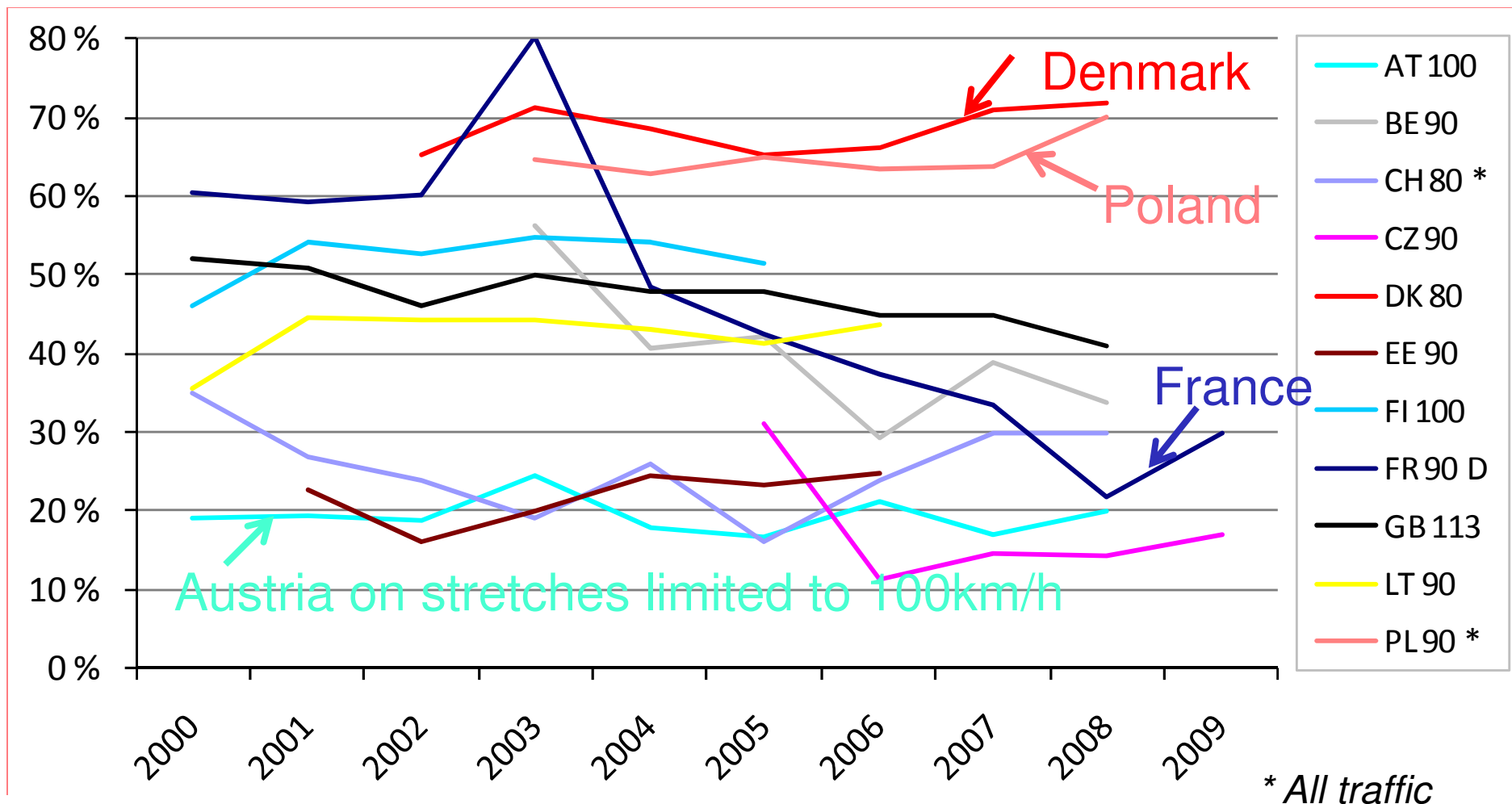
# Speed on RURAL roads (I)

Yearly average % change in mean speed of cars and vans on **rural roads**



# Speed on RURAL roads (II)

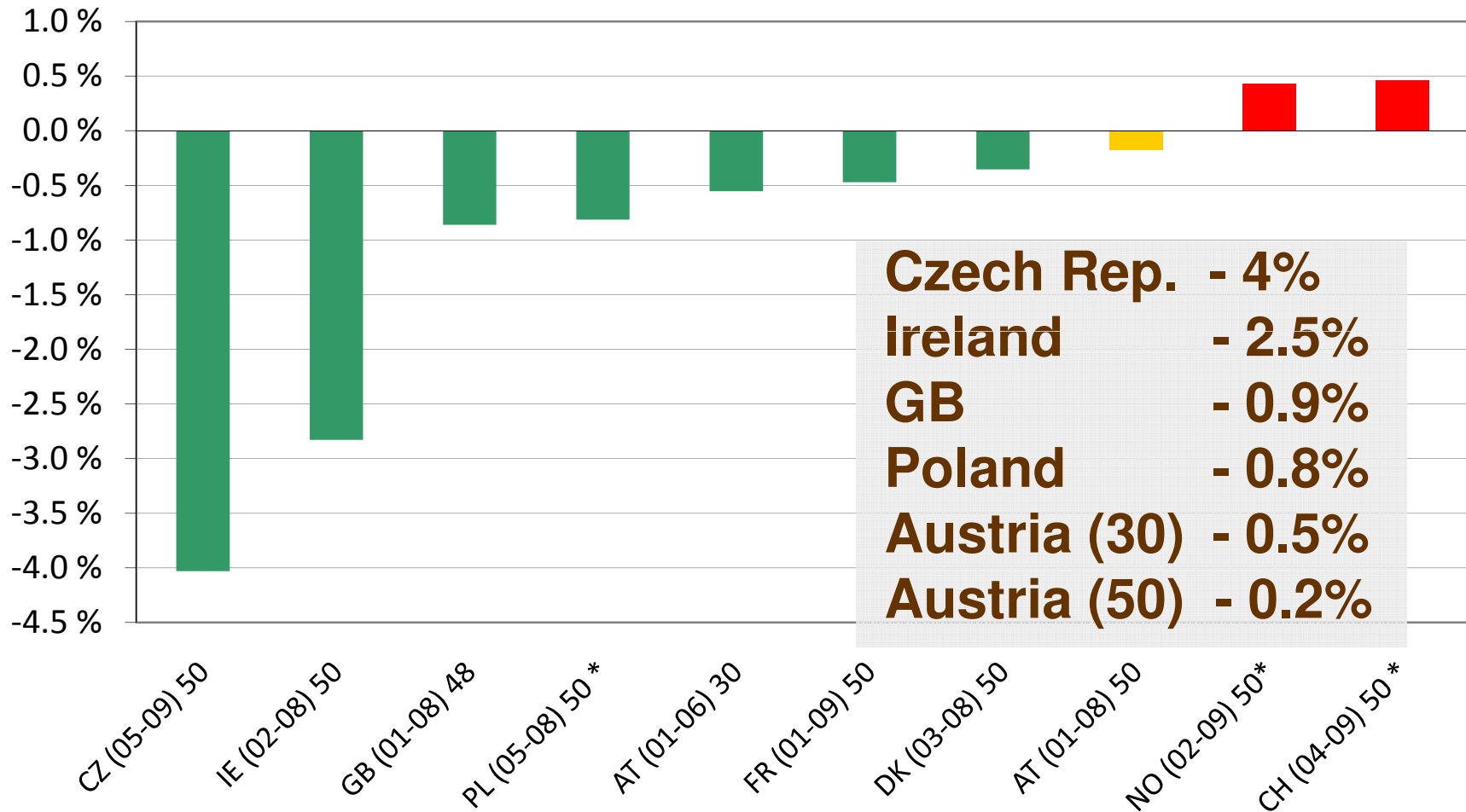
% of cars and vans exceeding speed limits on **rural roads**





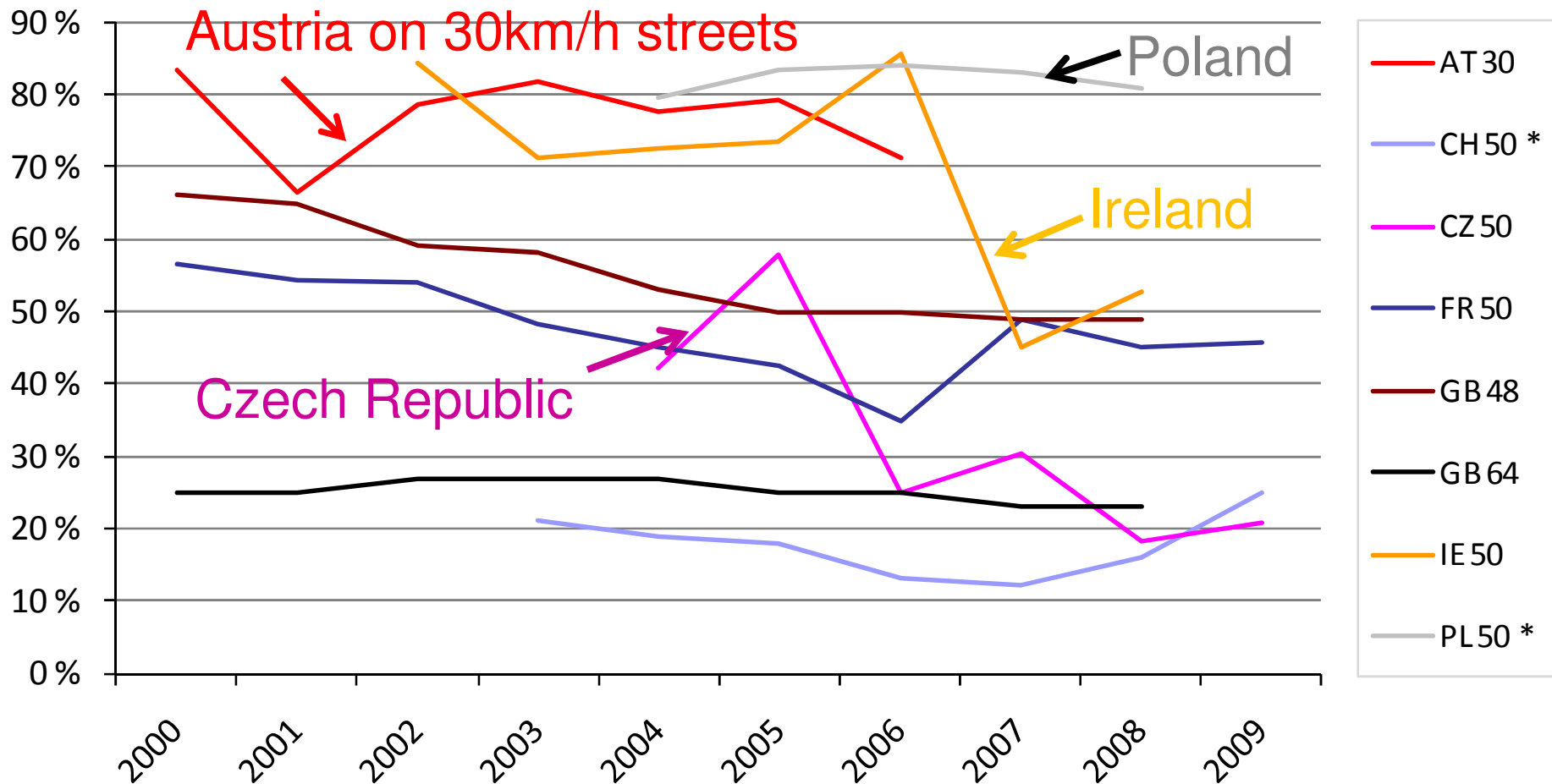
# Speed on URBAN roads

Yearly average % change in mean speed of cars and vans on **urban roads**



# Speed on URBAN roads (II)

% of cars and vans exceeding speed limits on **urban roads**



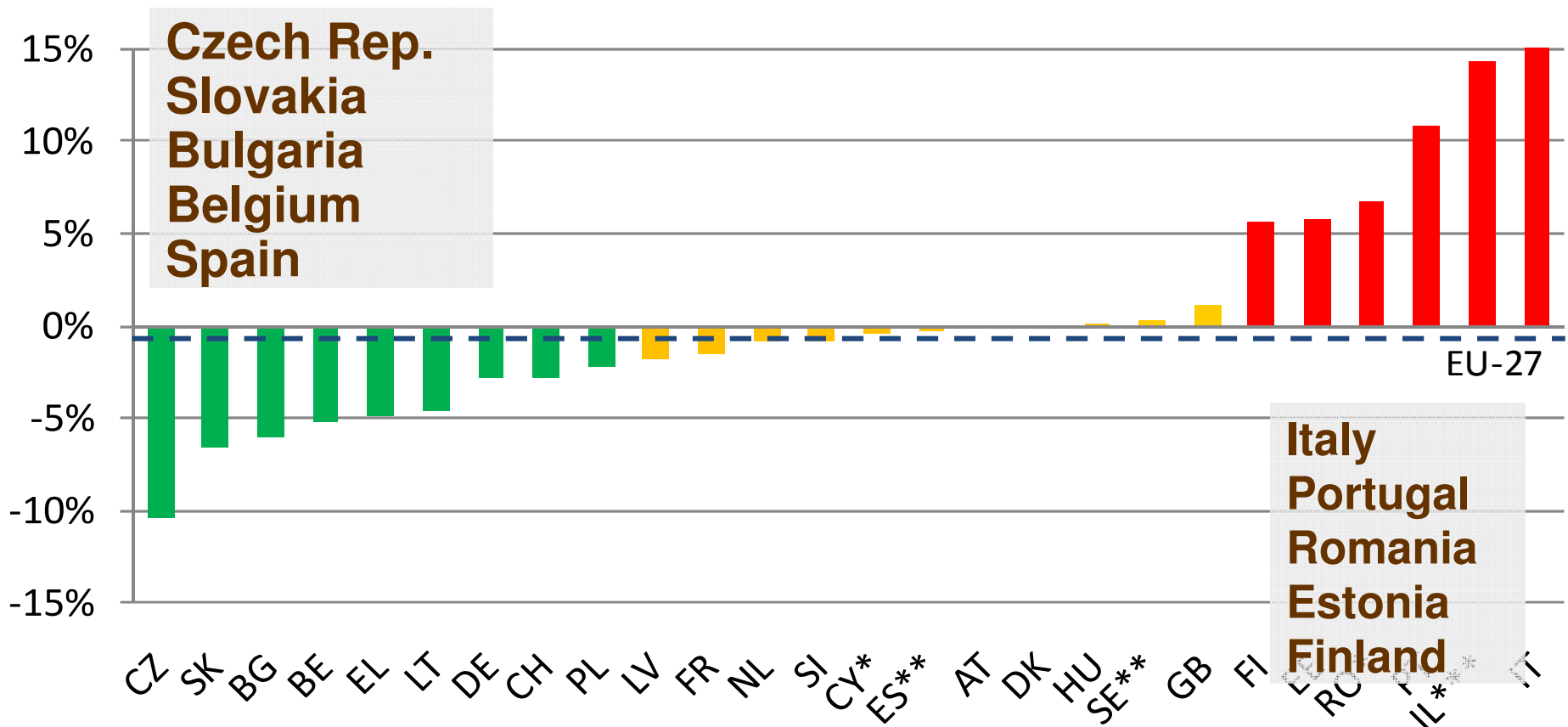
\* All traffic

# Recommendations - Speed

- Key factors in achieving progress:
  - **automated speed enforcement** (France, Spain,... )
  - **stricter sanctions, penalty points** (France, Spain, Czech Rep., ...)
- The EU should adopt the **Cross Border Enforcement Directive** to address speeding in the EU without delay
- Germany, Greece, Portugal, Slovakia do not monitor speeds which deprives them of important feedback on the effectiveness of their actions.

# Progress in reducing Drink driving

**Difference** between the average annual % reduction in deaths attributed to alcohol and the **corresponding reduction for other deaths** (over 2001-2008)



# Recommendations - Drink driving

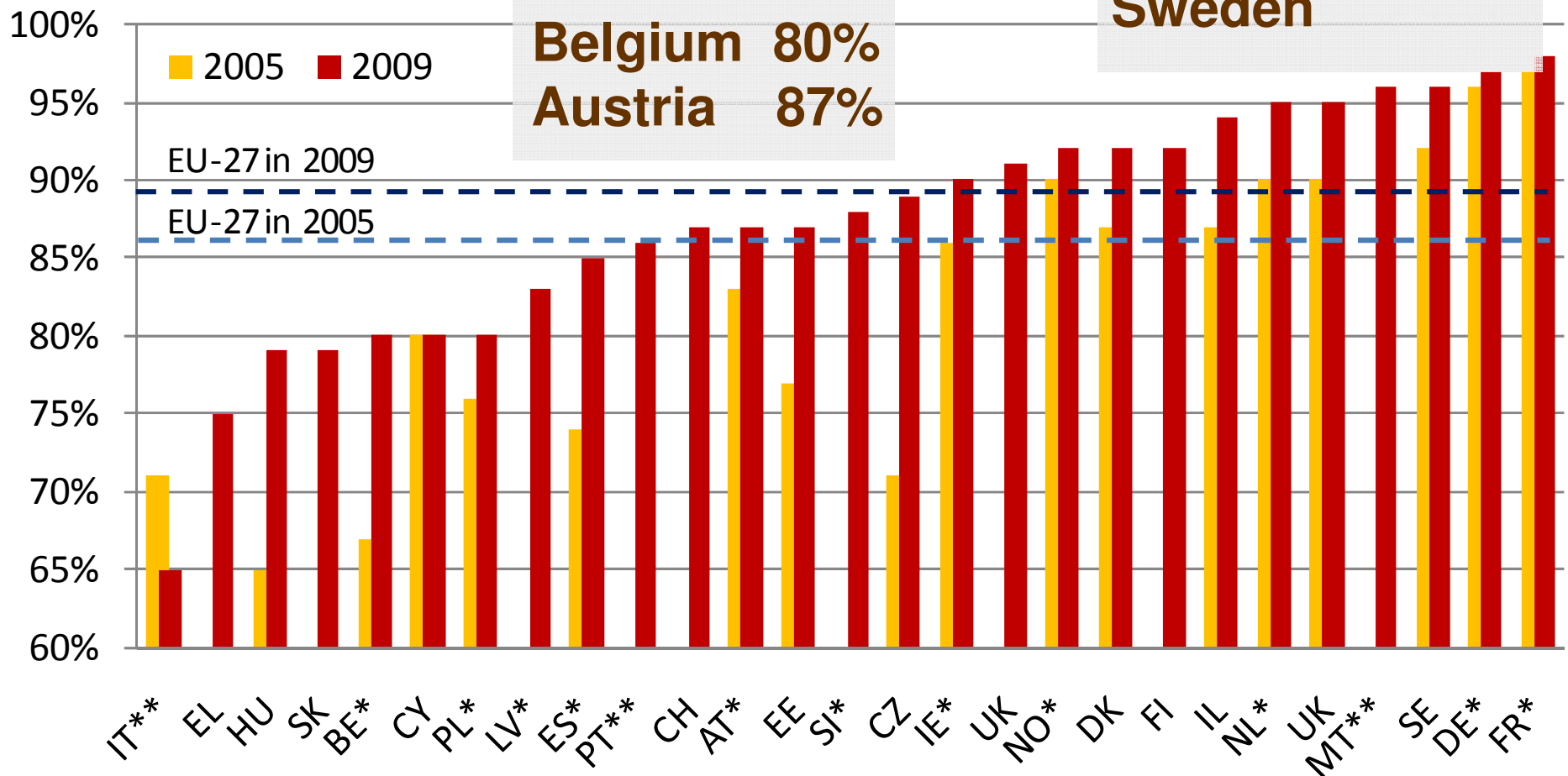
- Member States should increase the number of **alcohol checks**.  
*Drivers stopped by traffic police in **Finland, Sweden, Norway, Lithuania, Austria, Cyprus, Hungary, Czech Republic and Ireland** are systematically breath-tested.*
- Member States should take measures to tackle the **high rate of underreporting** of drink driving deaths
- The EU should promote **consistent and visible enforcement** as powerful deterrent to drink driving
- The EU should adopt a **0.2 g/l BAC limit for commercial and novice drivers**.
- The EU should support the introduction of **alcolocks**.

# Seat belt use in FRONT seats

**EU av. 89%**

**Italy 65%**  
**Greece 75%**  
**Belgium 80%**  
**Austria 87%**

**France**  
**Germany > 95%**  
**Sweden**

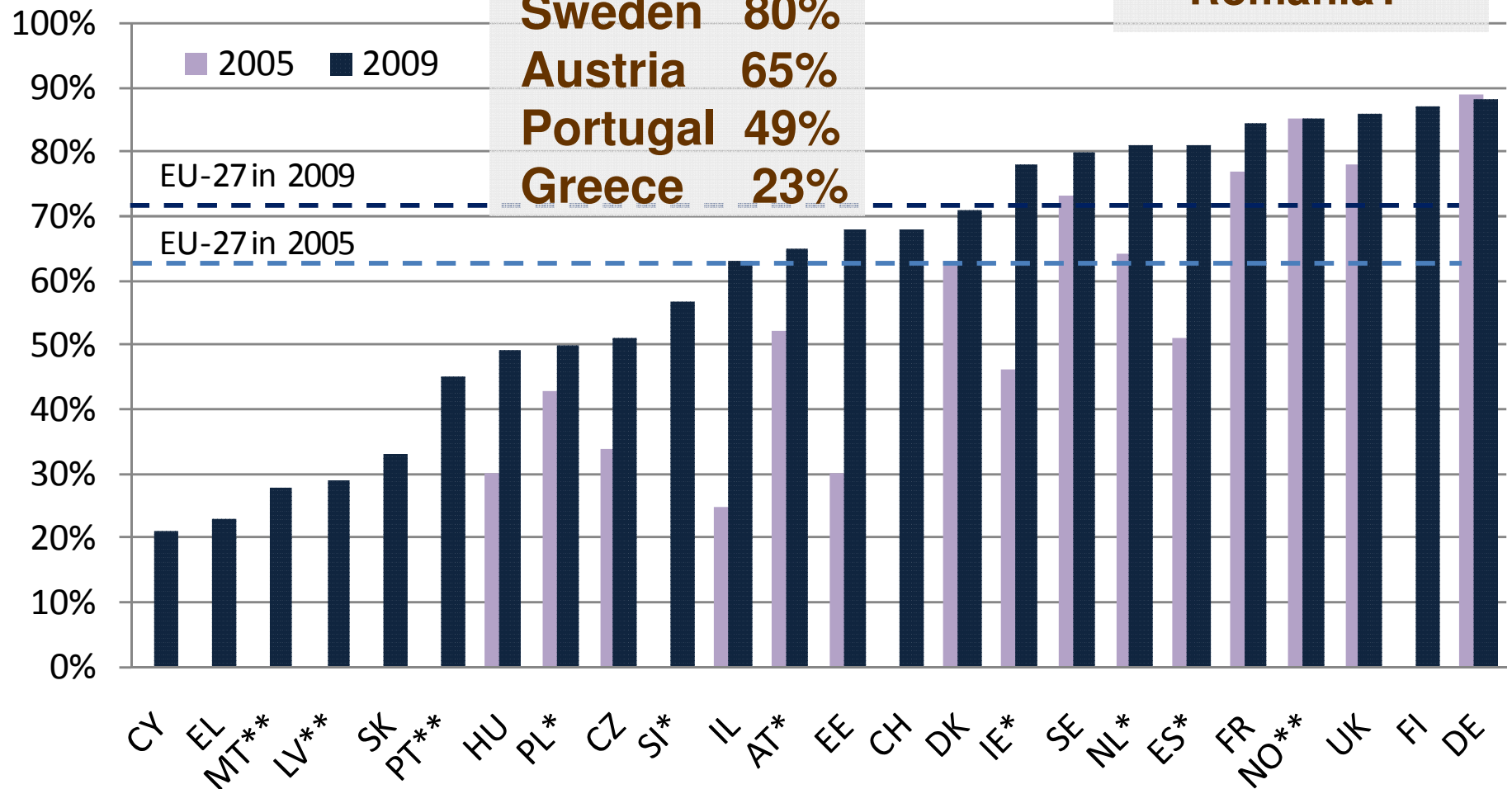


# Seat belt use REAR seats

Big disparities!  
EU av. 72% only

Germany 88%  
UK 89%  
Sweden 80%  
Austria 65%  
Portugal 49%  
Greece 23%

Belgium ?  
Bulgaria?  
Romania?



# Recommendations - Seat belt

## *To Member States:*

- Increase **enforcement** of seat belt use in both front and rear seats. Each driver stopped for whatever reason should be checked for seat belt wearing, as well as any passengers.
- Incorporate non-wearing of seat belt as an offence in **penalty point systems**.

## *To the EU:*

- Adopt legislation to ensure that every new car has as standard equipment enhanced **seat belt reminders** for all seats.



# Summing up...

**Member States** and the **EU in its 4<sup>th</sup> ERSAP** should be prioritising road safety measures tackling the three main killers on the roads:

- **Speeding**
- **Drink driving**
- **Non-use of seat belts**