The ETSC Safer Cities Network

ETSC has set up and launched at an international event in Brussels ("Best in Europe" 2006 Conference) a "Safer cities network". The network is open to cities, local politicians as well as experts of local road safety policy that have distinguished themselves in road safety work.

The "Safer Cities" Network is based on the following declaration:

DECLARATION

Despite the acknowledgement of the importance of local road safety work under the 3rd Road Safety Action Programme, there remains a series of unresolved problems posing a barrier to an effective translation of European targets and strategies into urban safety management schemes.

The "Safer Cities" network seeks to:

- explore the possibilities of a stronger involvement of cities and towns in EU road safety policy by ways of a formal consultation procedure;
- develop a reporting mechanism for European towns and cities in terms of their road safety performance (this reporting mechanism would be similar to that implemented under community air pollution policy, requiring local authorities to implement and work towards the achievement of EU road safety targets);
- develop guidelines for implementing cost-effective road safety measures at the local level based on Best Practice;
- set up quality criteria for financial support from the European Union for local road safety measures.

The Network has established links with ETSC's campaign on vulnerable road users (VOICE) and with key contacts from cities in the SEC Belt countries in order to be able to promote the dissemination of Best Practice in local road safety work. Several meeting where organised with local politicians and experts in London, Brussels, Gent, Brescia, Athens and Krakow. Members of the ETSC Secretariat, in representation of the Network, were also invited by the German Police to participate in speed checks at the German borders with Poland and the Czech Republic.

In the framework of the "Safer Cities" Network, a new ETSC Working Party has also been created. The Working Party is working on local road safety policies and will extend the concept of "Safer Cities" beyond the SEC BELT project. The Working Party comprises local politicians as well as experts of local road safety policy. Its members are:

1. Maurizio Tira, University of Brescia (I) (Chair)
2. Dominique Fleury, INRETS (F) (Co-Chair)
3. Ilona Buttler, ITS (PL)
4. Jacqueline Lacroix, DVR (D)
5. Tomaz Pavcic, Ministry of Transport, (SI)
6. Kirsten Tode, Danish Road Safety Council (DK)
7. Peter Vansevenant, City of Ghent (B)
8. Heather Ward, University College London (UK)

The aim of the Working Party is to work on the barriers and pathways for road safety policy integration across Europe. The Working Party will also encourage European cities, local politicians and expert of local road safety work to enhance their cooperation with ETSC in order to improve safety on the local roads.