“Safe & Sober: Reducing deaths and injuries from drink driving”

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Drink Driving in Europe

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Introduction to ETSC

A science-based approach to road safety policy

- Bringing together **42 organisations** from across Europe to promote science based transport safety measures at EU level.
- More then **200 experts** contributing to ETSC's Reviews, Policy Papers, Newsletters, Positions, Press Releases, etc.
- **9 Secretariat** staff members do their utmost to insert the knowledge of ETSC members and experts into EU transport safety policy-making
- The European Commission, member organisations, member states and corporate sponsors are funding our work.
- 2 Drink Driving programmes: **"Safe & Sober"** and **" Drink Driving policy network".**

“Safe & Sober” Campaign

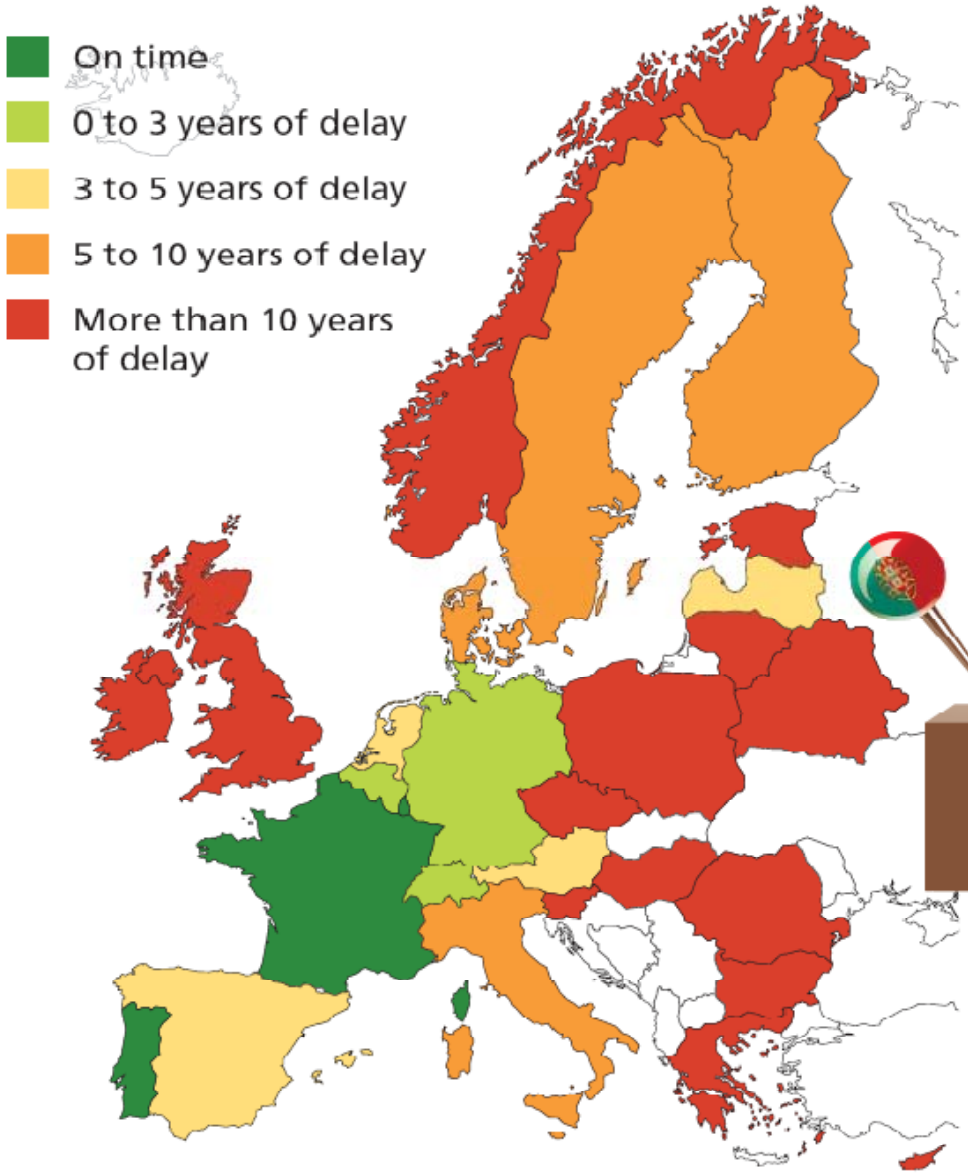
Safe & Sober…

- is a co-operation between VOLVO and ETSC
- is a 3 year programme (January 2007 – December 2009)

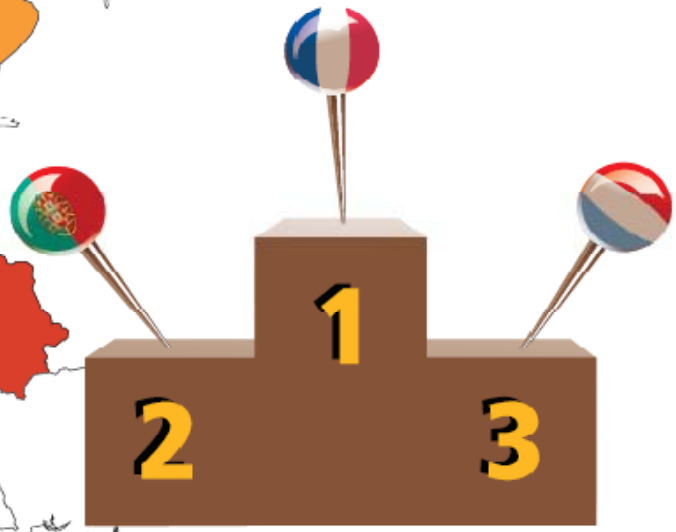
Safe & Sober aims at…

- improving local, regional and national policies for the prevention of Drink Driving in commercial transport;
- identifying and promoting best practice;
- addressing measures relating to education; enforcement and engineering.

Expected year of reaching the target



Estimation based on the average annual reductions over the period 2001-2007







Drink Driving in the EU

- Up to 10,000 road deaths (25%)
- causes 30-40% of driver deaths
- Drink driving in traffic flow:
  EU 1-2% of drivers (illegal BAC)



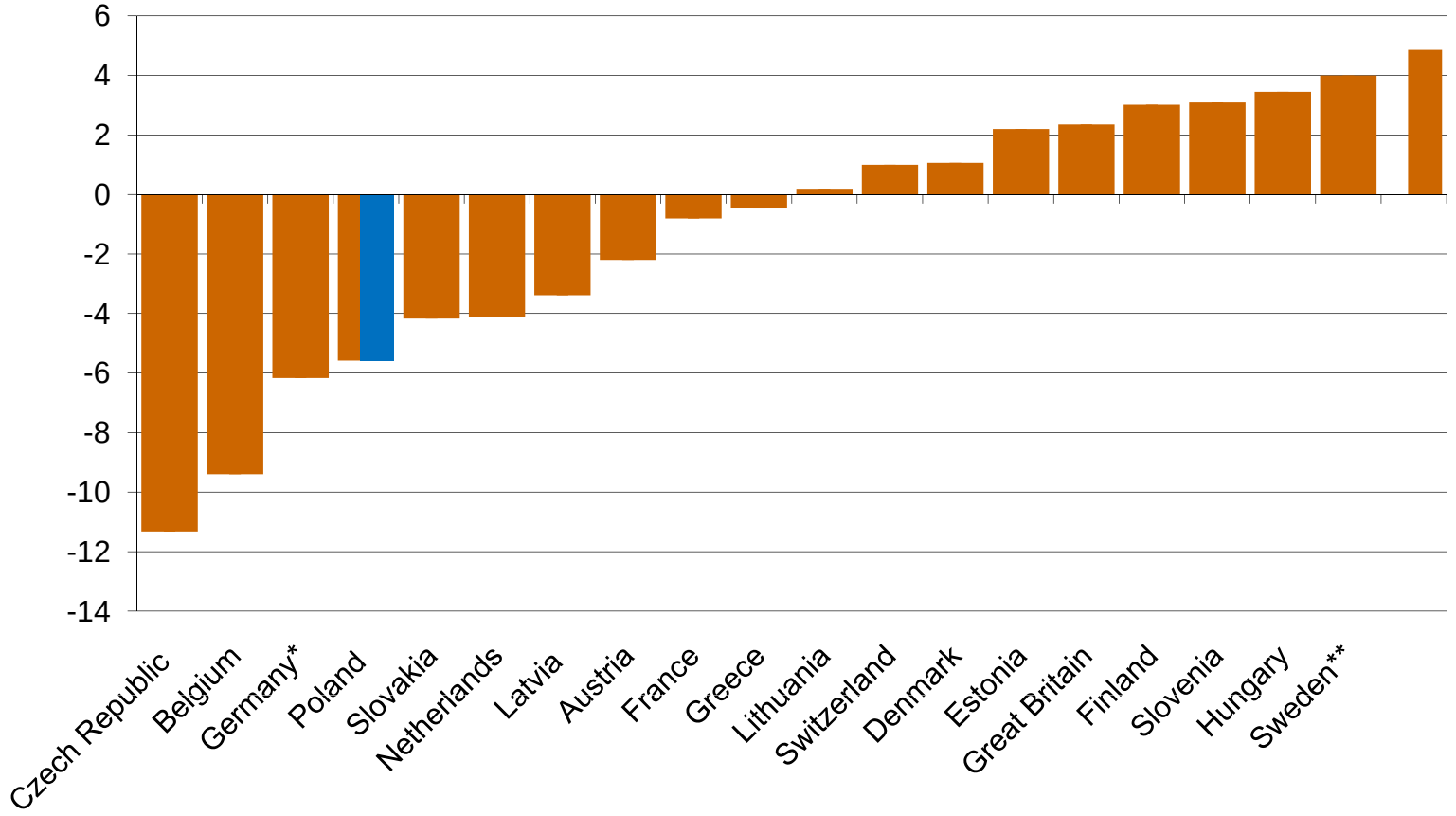
Numbers of drink driving deaths?

Proportion of drink driving deaths in all deaths (2005)	
Austria	6%
Switzerland	19%
France	29%
Poland	8.4%

Each country has its own way of identifying deaths from drink driving accidents, so these percentages cannot be compared.

Changes in drink driving deaths 1

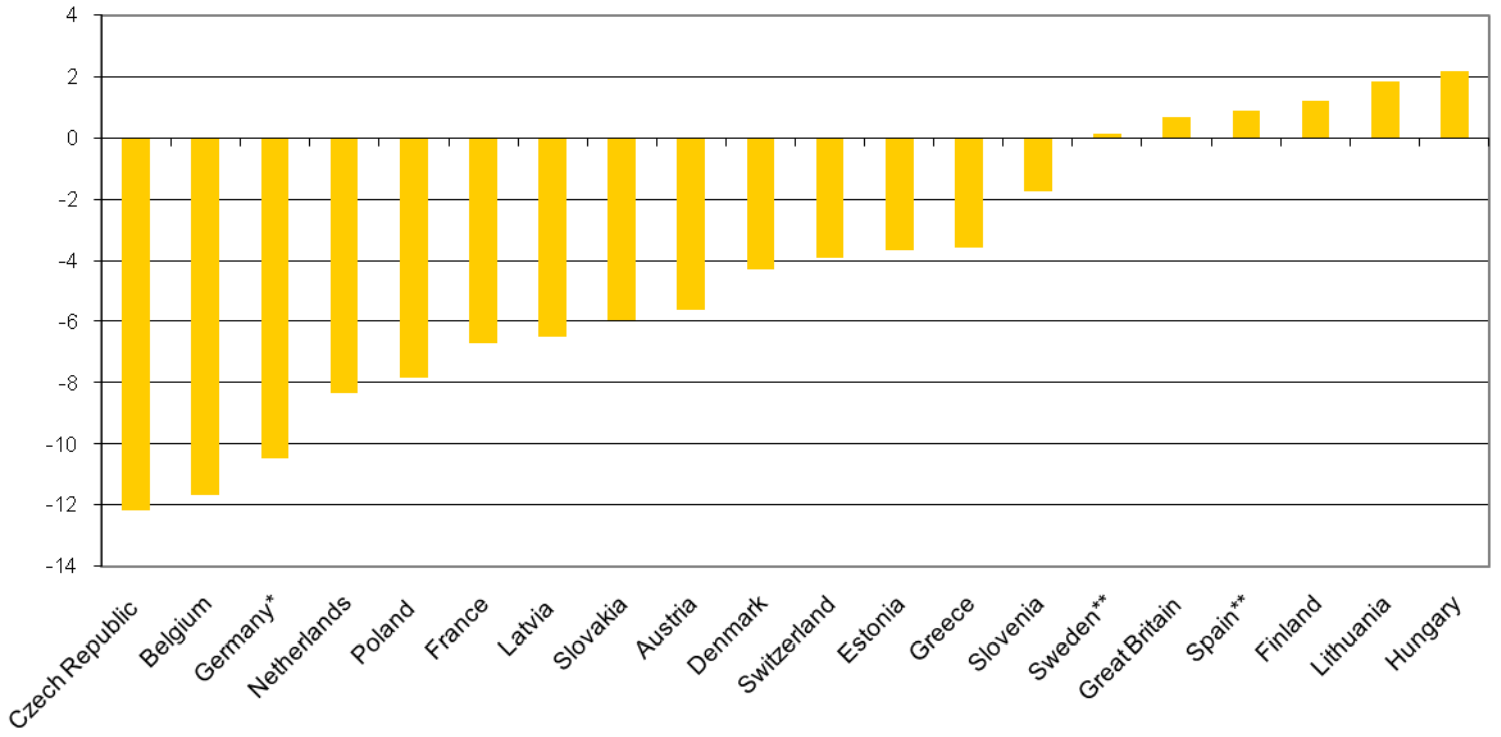
Yearly % change in drink driving deaths relative to other road deaths (1996-98 to 2005)



* Yearly % change in drivers involved in fatal drink driving crashes relative to drivers involved in other fatal crashes (Germany)
** Yearly % change in driver deaths from drink driving crashes relative to driver deaths from other crashes (Spain, Sweden)

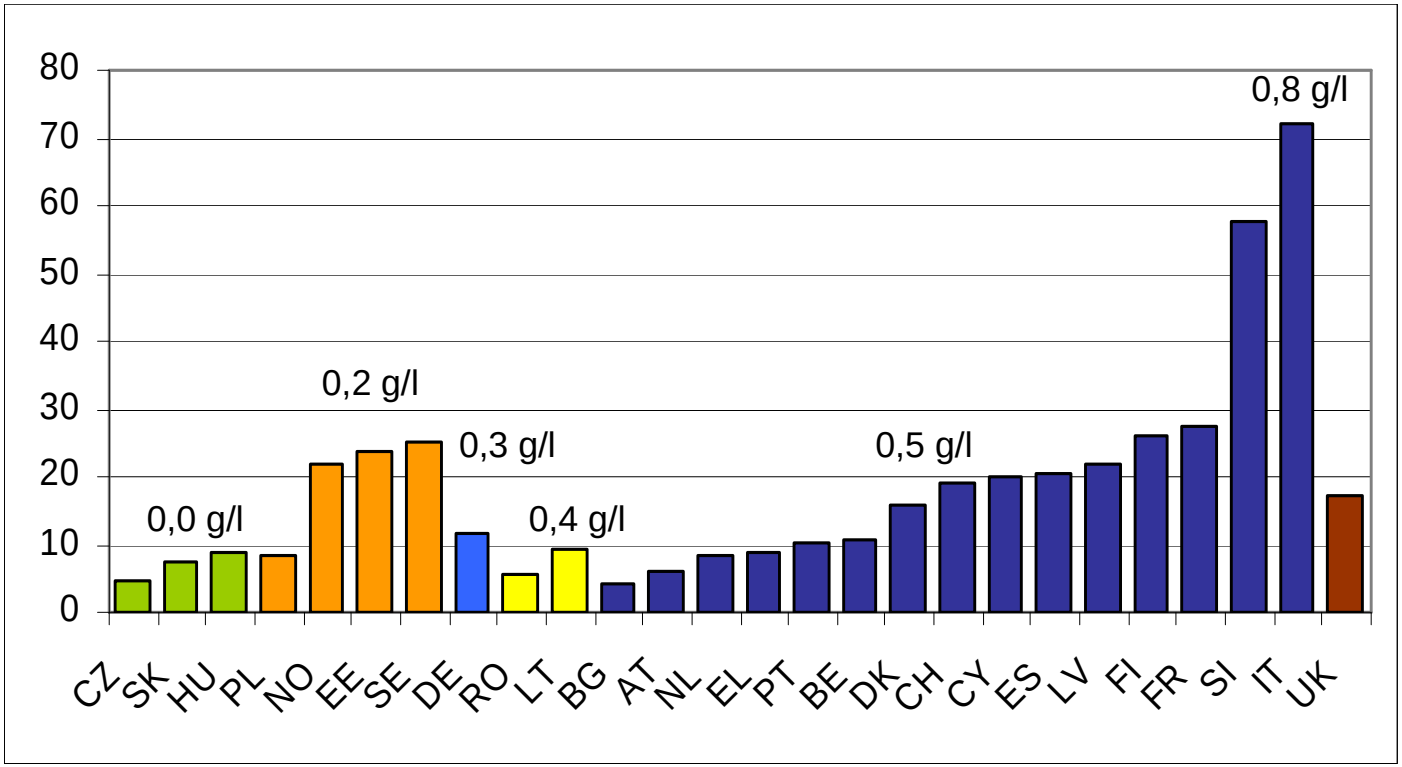
Changes in drink driving deaths 2

Average yearly change in road deaths resulting from crashes related to drink driving (in %, 1996-98 to 2005)



*Average yearly percentage change in drivers involved in fatal drink driving crashes
** Average yearly percentage change in driver deaths from drink driving crashes

Numbers of drink driving deaths?



Percentage of alcohol-related road fatalities in EU countries in 2007 BAC of a driver over the legal limit (ERSO, Eksler and Vis, Eds., 2008)

But comparability remains difficult...

An incomplete Picture

- Costs of autopsy of killed drivers – high especially when killed driver cannot be punished
- Testing people killed in accients may be legally prohibited without suspicion in some countries
- Sometimes results not reported back to the Police for reasons of privacy

- Time consuming routines: Police may have to make formal requests to the hostpitals to get the rsults of the autopsy

- Death occurs several days after the collission – too late to check the BAC
- Incomplete or no publication

BAC limits across the EU

Common BAC limits (mg/ml)?

0,0 (Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia)

0,2 (Estonia, Poland, Sweden)

0,4 (Lithuania)

0,5 (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain)

0,8 (Ireland, Malta, United Kingdom)

But: A limit needs to be enforced!

Drink Driving enforcement 1

- EC Recommendation on Traffic Law Enforcement in 2003.
- Highest level of checks (2004): Finland, Estonia, Sweden, the Netherlands.
- Lowest levels (2004): Italy, UK, Belgium.
- Sartre-3-Survey (2004): Only 26% of drivers in the EU were checked (2001-2004).



TISPOL Drink Driving Checks 2

Numbers tested in 19 countries in June 2008 Drink Driving Campaign	880 000
Average in each country	50 000
Most controls	France, Spain, Sweden
Least controls	Belgium, Switzerland
Number over the BAC limit	14 645 (1.7%)
Largest drink driving prevalence	UK, Switzerland
Lowest drink driving prevalence	Nordic Countries

Drink Driving enforcement 3

Austria:

- Introduction of roadside alcohol tests 2005.
- -20% Drink Driving deaths (2005-2006).

Switzerland:

- Introduction of 0.5 BAC limit and random breath testing in 2005.
- -25% fatal Drink Driving accidents (2005-2006).



Enforcement: Alcolocks

- Alcolock acceptance: 34% of EU drivers are in favour (2003).
- Field trials in Europe: Finland, France, Sweden.
- Findings in Sweden:
  - lower rates of recidivism
  - less accidents of participants



ETSC's EU recommendations

BAC limit:

- Introduce a maximum BAC limit in the EU of 0.5 mg/ml (0.2 mg/ml for commercial drivers).

Enforcement:

- Transpose the EC recommendation on enforcement as part of a legally binding directive.
- Adopt the Cross Border Enforcement Directive swiftly to include drink driving offences.
- Promote alcolocks for commercial transport and recidivist offenders and set up best practice guidelines.

Thank you for your attention!