NEWS RELEASE

European Transport Safety Council

Rue du Cornet /
Hoornstraat 34
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: 02/230 4106/4004
Fax: 02/230 4215

Brussels, 25 October 2004

EU road safety target cannot be reached without increased enforcement

As Europe's Transport Ministers meet today in Verona to discuss road safety, the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) addresses its concerns in a letter to Mrs. Peijs, President of the Council of the European Union. ETSC stresses that if the objective of halving the number of road victims by 2010 is to be met, the enforcement of traffic law must be given a high priority. If traffic rules were thoroughly checked and sanctioned, more than 14,000 lives could be saved and 680 000 injuries avoided on European roads each year, according to Commission estimates.

ETSC therefore calls upon European Transport Ministers

- To account for the progress made so far in implementing the Commission's Recommendation on enforcement;
- To promote the use of seat belt reminders and alcohol interlocks, and to stimulate the development and market introduction of intelligent speed adaptation devices;
- To adopt legislation to facilitate the exchange of information on cross-border enforcement of road traffic laws as proposed by the recently completed VERA2 project.

Traffic law enforcement should be given a high priority in all Member States. "France has shown that improving checks and procedures to follow up offences do make a difference, and that it is a question of political will whether or not this can be achieved. If Member States are serious about fighting road carnage they must ensure that basic safety rules on speed, alcohol and safety belts are heeded" ETSC Executive Director Jörg Beckmann said.

"Without improved enforcement of traffic law, the EU target of cutting road deaths by 50% cannot be reached" Jörg Beckmann added. "That's why ETSC will be carefully monitoring Member States' performance in this respect."

For more information on ETSC's enforcement programme please visit the ETSC website and contact Franziska Achterberg (information@etsc.be) and Ellen Townsend (programme@etsc.be), Tel. + 32 (0) 2 230 4106

The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of transport crashes and casualties in Europe. ETSC seeks to identify and promote effective measures on the basis of international scientific research and best practice. It brings together 26 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.