



NEWS RELEASE

Change of leadership at ETSC

1 February 2008, Brussels – Jörg Beckmann is stepping down as the ETSC⁽¹⁾ Executive Director after five years of leading this key transport safety lobbying organisation. Antonio Avenoso is taking over from him on 1 February 2008.

Transport experts are grateful to Jörg Beckmann for significantly advancing the transport safety agenda in the past five years. Under his leadership ETSC has provided timely and relevant input to the adoption and implementation of transport safety legislation at both the EU and national level. He has launched and overseen the creation of the Road Safety PIN Programme, a new policy instrument comparing Member States' performance in promoting safe road user behaviour, infrastructure and vehicles, as well as sound and evidence-based policymaking. Jörg Beckmann is moving on to steer the Mobility Academy, a Swiss-based think-tank dedicated to addressing future challenges in the transport sector. ETSC wishes him well in his future endeavours.

Antonio Avenoso has spent the past seven years with ETSC during which he has accumulated valuable experience in the safety field across all transport modes. Since 2006 he has been Deputy Director effectively providing day-to-day management of its EU policy advocacy, administrative and financial activities. Before joining ETSC in 2001 he worked in the "Railway and Interoperability Unity" of the Directorate General for Energy and Transport of the European Commission.

Chairman of ETSC's Board of Directors, Professor Herman De Croo said: *"The Board is convinced we have chosen the right man for the right place and for the right time. Since its conception 15 years ago ETSC has become a major stakeholder whose expert advice is sought by EU and national policymakers. Jörg Beckmann has been instrumental in moving transport safety up the EU transport policy agenda and Antonio Avenoso, with his energy and experience, is best placed to continue these efforts. Among his more pressing tasks will be working closely with the European Commission on defining the priorities for the 4th Road Safety Action Programme. Antonio's past track record demonstrates that he can tackle this and other future challenges in transport safety very successfully."*

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Note to Editors:

- (1) 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. The Council brings together 39 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.be