



NEWS RELEASE

European Parliament Asks the Commission to Do More on Road Safety

27 September 2011, Brussels – “This European Parliament report shows the legislature’s commitment to further improve road safety in the European Union,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC Executive Director¹ upon the plenary adoption of the European Parliament’s own initiative report on European road safety. “We congratulate Dieter Lebrecht-Koch MEP for his resolute work as rapporteur on the dossier,” Mr. Avenoso continued.

“We are particularly happy the EP report picks up on the need for the European Commission to augment the 2010 Policy Orientations with a fully-fledged Action Programme, complete with strict deadlines for actions and a mid-term review,”² said Mr. Avenoso. ETSC supports the report’s acknowledgement that the EU potential for new legislation to improve road safety is not exhausted. The need for better reporting of national data and harmonised indicators for benchmarking, as well as setting common targets for the reduction of serious injuries³ are areas that ETSC has long been supporting. “We will be pushing the European Commission to propose a set of sub-targets and safety performance indicators in order to monitor progress towards the 2020 target of no more than 15,500 deaths on EU roads,” Mr. Avenoso added.

“Speeding and drink driving are driver behaviour areas where we strongly think the EU has an important role to play. ETSC welcomes the European Parliament’s recognition by supporting harmonised 30km/h speed limits in residential areas and single-lane urban roads, as well as alcohol interlock systems for novice and professional drivers,” Mr. Avenoso said.

“We must now use this positive response from the European Parliament to constantly remind the Commission that it is its right to propose new legislation and work with Member States to increase the level of safety on EU roads,” Mr. Avenoso concluded.

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Notes to editors:

¹ ETSC is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to reducing the numbers of deaths and injuries in transport in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 45 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.eu

² The ETSC appeal to MEPs before the vote can be found here:

http://etsc.eu/documents/ETSC%20MEP%20Briefing%20Own%20Initiative%20Report%20Road%20Safety%20September%202011_final.pdf

³ The fourth ETSC PIN Report can be found here:

<http://www.etsc.eu/documents/ETSC%20PIN%20Report%202010.pdf>