



NEWS RELEASE

EU Receives Wake-up Call to Address Road Deaths

30 March 2012, Brussels – “The provisional numbers of road deaths for 2011 the European Commission released yesterday are a tough reality check for the state of road safety in the EU,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC¹ Executive Director. “Tackling them [the three main killers on the roads] has to be our priority,” said Vice-President Kallas². ETSC welcomes this strong statement by the Transport Commissioner, together with the other priority areas he identified: enforcement of traffic rules and reducing the number of motorcyclists killed on the roads.

“Yesterday’s announcement came in with a stark reminder that there is no room for complacency, even after several years of good progress. I can only hope this cold shower will reinvigorate the European Commission and governments and help them get back on track to reach the EU 2020 road safety target. Since 2010 – when the European Road Safety Policy Orientations were published – we have yet to see any new legislative proposal from the Commission. We have a bold speech, we now have to translate the commitments of the Policy Orientations into concrete actions.” said Mr. Avenoso. ETSC suggested several priority measures in its response to the EC document.³

According to the provisional data released by the European Commission on 29 March, 85 people die daily on EU roads. “Imagine that every day, when you turn on the evening news you find out that an average-size plane has crashed somewhere in the EU, we would find this unacceptable. The same attitude should be taken towards road deaths,” said Mr. Avenoso.

“I am looking forward to the debates at ETSC’s annual Road Safety PIN conference on June 20th 2012, in order to identify the reasons for, and draw lessons from, the slower progress in reducing road deaths, particularly in the countries with an increase in the number of road deaths for 2011,” added Mr. Avenoso. The 6th annual PIN report will include 2011 data⁴ for road deaths and serious injuries and also include a chapter on national road safety management frameworks.

For more information please contact ETSC Policy Director Ellen Townsend ellen.townsend@etsc.eu or Communication Officer Mircea Steriu mircea.steriu@etsc.eu, tel. +32 (0)2 230.41.06.

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 European Commission press release is available here:
<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/326&format=HTML&aged=0&language=en&guiLanguage=en>

³ The ETSC response to the Road Safety Policy Orientations can be found here:
http://www.etsc.eu/documents/ETSC_Response_EC_Policy_Orientations_Sept2010.pdf

⁴ The European Commission data released yesterday is provisional data. These figures might increase when the EU-wide definition of 'death within 30 days of the collision' is applied. Updated data to be published on 20 June 2012 at <http://www.etsc.eu/PIN.php>



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