

NEWS RELEASE



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Brussels, 25 October 2004

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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.

Ministry of Transport, Public Works and
Water Management
Plesmanweg 1-6
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Rue du Cornet 34/
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Brussels, 22 October 2004

Dear Minister Peijs,

Re: Traffic Law Enforcement

Writing on behalf of the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), I am pleased that you have attached such a high priority to traffic law enforcement and placed it on the agenda for your Informal Ministerial Meeting in Verona. ETSC shares the view highlighted in the 'Verona Charter' that the effective enforcement of rules pertaining to speed limits, blood alcohol content and seat belt use is fundamental to achieve the EU's objective of cutting the number of road deaths by 20 000 by the year 2010 as agreed by the Council of Ministers on 5 June 2003.

In this context we ask you to take these three points into account:

- EU Transport Ministers should account for the progress made so far in implementing the Commission's Recommendation on enforcement in their Member States. ETSC will be carefully monitoring and analysing national enforcement policies in this respect.
- EU Transport Ministers should support efforts to promote the use of in-vehicle technologies such as seat belt reminders and alcohol interlocks, and to stimulate the development and use of intelligent speed adaptation devices.
- EU Transport Ministers should adopt legislation to facilitate the exchange of information on cross-border enforcement of road traffic laws as proposed by the recently completed VERA2 project.

On behalf of ETSC's members across Europe we call upon you as Chair of the Transport Council to insist upon real action on enforcement which could make a crucial contribution to saving lives. I thank you very much for considering these important points and we look forward to continuing this dialogue with you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Beckmann'.

Jörg Beckmann
ETSC Executive Director

Executive Director:
Dr. Jörg Beckmann

Board of Directors:
Prof. Manfred Bandmann
Prof. Herman De Croo
Prof. G. Murray Mackay
Mr Pieter Van Vollenhoven