



NEWS RELEASE

Germans Discuss Future of Work-Related Road Safety

15 June 2011, Sankt Augustin, Bonn – “Investing in road safety is a win-win for employers and should be at the heart of their business plan” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC¹ Executive Director during the PRAISE country seminar held yesterday in co-operation with the German Road Safety Council (DVR) at the Institute for Work Safety of the German Social Accident Insurance Association. The seminar brought together international and national experts who presented measures and good practice examples to improve work related road safety in Germany.

The PRAISE seminar provided an opportunity to assess work-related road safety in Germany and examine existing and possible future initiatives from governments and employers to secure better road safety standards at work. Work-related road safety is an emerging source of concern throughout Europe, requiring renewed commitment from all actors involved. It is estimated that, in the EU-15, 39% fatal work collisions are road traffic collisions (ESAW, 2005) and this proportion would be considerably higher if collisions while commuting to and from work were included. With 45 road deaths per million inhabitants the overall number of deaths on German roads is considerably lower than the EU average. A total of 3,651 people died on German roads in 2010, amounting to a 48% reduction compared with 2001, which is above the EU average².

Elke Schneider of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work encouraged the audience to take further actions to improve work-related safety by presenting an EU-wide selection of good practice cases. Dr. Sven Timm, representing the German Social Accident Insurance, presented an overview of the problem of work related road traffic collisions in Germany and the institutional framework set up to tackle this problem. The example of Deutsche Post DHL was discussed as a domestic good practice case. Participants were also introduced to an approach based on using ‘Risk Assessment’ which was presented by Mrs. Gudrun Gericke from the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena. The specific German cooperation model of the employers’ liability insurance associations was presented by Mr. Herbert Gohl. Discussions allowed participants to exchange ideas on taking concrete steps to improve further road safety whilst driving for work.³

Background

[“Preventing Road Accidents and Injuries for the Safety of Employees”](#) (PRAISE) aims to increase road safety in the work context. It aims to “praise” good practices in order to help employers secure high road safety standards for their employees. In the framework of this project, ETSC is organising a series of country seminars in selected member states bringing together companies, fleet safety managers and the government and road safety experts.

The fourth country seminar in the series was organised in co-operation with the German Road Safety Council (DVR). The PRAISE project is co-funded by the European Commission, Fundacion MAPFRE, the German Road Safety Council (DVR) and the Swiss Council for Accident Prevention (bfu).

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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 Provisional data from www.destatis.com

³ To view the PRAISE Seminar programme click here
http://www.etsc.eu/documents/Final_Invitation%20PRAISE%20Germany%2014th%20June%202011_EN-DE.pdf