

NEWS RELEASE
6 January 2009

Czech Presidency at Head of EU as Clock Ticks to Reach 2010 Road Safety Target

6 January 2009, Brussels – The European Transport Safety Council⁽¹⁾ in its Memorandum⁽²⁾ to the EU Presidency asks the incoming Czechs to devote time on full European transport agenda to road safety. Taking over from the French Presidency, the strong momentum must be maintained in pushing forward with two important road safety dossiers: the EU's 4th Road Safety Action Programme and the Cross Border Enforcement Directive. Following a disappointing 2007 when the number of road deaths increased across the EU, it is likely to miss its target of halving road deaths between 2001 and 2010. However, on a more positive note, some of the first results from countries show a reduction in deaths for the first half of 2008.

After a time for reflection over the holidays the Czech Republic must now grasp with renewed vigour the challenge of finding agreement on the Cross Border Enforcement Directive⁽³⁾. The proposed legislation would allow drivers to be identified and prosecuted for offences committed in other EU countries. Non-resident drivers make up an ever growing share of the traffic flow in an increasingly mobile and integrated EU. The current deadlock at the EU Council over which pillar – transport or justice and home affairs – this legislative instrument should be adopted under must be resolved as soon as possible. The European Parliament gave their overwhelming support to the proposed Directive with the adoption of their Report in the Plenary on the 17th of December. ETSC stresses that Czech Ministers and its Member State officials must take the lead in trying to find a solution which all Member States support, preferably under the first pillar of the Treaty.

The second priority for the Czech Presidency would be participating in the European Commission's preparations for the adoption of the new 4th Road Safety Action Programme (RSAP) in 2009. Guided by the vision *Road Safety as a right and responsibility for all* ETSC proposes to adopt a shared target of 40% reduction of deaths and 20% reduction of severe injuries in each Member State, and a separate target of 60% reduction of child deaths between 2011 and 2020. In addition to addressing the problems of badly designed infrastructure and vehicles, the 4th RSAP should focus upon the main behavioural causes of death and injuries: speeding, drink driving and non use of seat belt and child safety restraints. The Programme should also tackle new emerging trends such as the increasing numbers of motorcyclists' deaths and injuries and the demographic challenge of an ageing society.

"Strong leadership is needed to bring about renewed efforts ahead of 2010" said ETSC Policy Director Ellen Townsend. "Preliminary positive road safety results for 2008 give cause for cautions optimism, but these should be sustained with a concerted effort from all the EU Member States led by the Czech Presidency."

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Notes to Editors:

(1) **The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)** is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of the number and severity of transport crashes in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 42 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.be

(2) Click for the text of the Memorandum in [English](#) or in [Czech](#)

(3) The text of the Cross Border Enforcement Directive may be found [here](#)