



NEWS RELEASE
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Young Road Safety Activists Camp in Brussels

Nineteen students from Universities around Europe have spent this week at a road safety camp in Brussels to learn about safe road design and effective lobbying. Organised by ETSC⁽¹⁾ for the first time, the camp is part of the Roads to Respect Programme launched in March 2007. The objective of the programme, co-financed by Toyota and 3M, is to mobilise future road safety professionals to improve the safety of high-risk road sections.

Earlier this year ETSC staff had toured the 13 participating Universities⁽²⁾ in Italy, Spain and Poland giving lectures on road safety. The 19 most active students participating in those seminars were then picked up to attend the camp in Brussels on 10-14 September. The camp served not only as a road safety education platform, but also as a general introduction to the art of road safety lobbying.

Upon return to their countries, the students will demonstrate their newly-acquired lobbying and campaigning skills by presenting a high risk site they have identified to their local authorities and get a commitment from them to get it treated. The most successful of the young lobbyists will be presented with a Roads-to-Respect Award in Brussels in the beginning of 2008.

"We at ETSC increasingly see growth of local road safety initiatives in Europe," says ETSC Executive Director Jörg Beckmann. "People want to live in a safe environment and not to see their lives jeopardised on the roads. Today's students will be tomorrow's road safety decision-makers. Their personal commitment to casualty reduction and ability to work with stakeholders from industry, research and civil society will determine the future of road safety in Europe."

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Notes to Editors:

(1) The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), founded in 1993, 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 37 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.

(2) The participating Universities are: Università di Roma 'La Sapienza' (I), Università di Roma 'Tor Vergata' (I), Università di Roma 'Tre' (I), Università di Brescia (I), Università di Pisa (I), Università di Napoli (I), Politecnico di Milano (I); Politecnia de Madrid (S), Universitat Politecnico de Barcelona (S), Universidad de Granada (S), Universidad de Valencia (S); Technical University of Warsaw (P), Technical University of Gdansk (P), Technical University of Krakow (P), and Technical University of Poznan (P).