

NEWS RELEASE

Only Three EU Countries Will Reach 2010 Road Safety Target on Time

23 June 2008 - France, Portugal and Luxembourg remain the only countries which will reach the 2010 target of halving road deaths, according to the new PIN Annual Report launched today by ETSC at its PIN Annual Conference⁽¹⁾. Between 2001 and 2007 these three countries have cut road deaths by 43%, 42% and 38% respectively. If this pace is sustained, they will reach the target ahead of 2010, while the rest of the EU members are estimated to reach it between 2011 and 2030 (or even later, in some cases), the average finish time being 2018⁽²⁾.

For the first time since 2001, 2007 saw no reduction in the total number of road deaths in the EU. With some 43,000 people killed in traffic last year, the number of road fatalities is 20% less than in 2001. However, this is a far cry from 37% needed to halve road deaths by 2010.

If annualised, this means that every country should have been eradicating road crash mortality at 7.4% rate on average. Today only **France, Portugal and Luxembourg** have been able to do so, each of them above 8%. If efforts are maintained, **France and Luxembourg** could reach the EU target at the national level already this year, while **Portugal** is expected to reach it next year.

Following **France** in 2007, this year **Portugal** received the Road Safety PIN Award for its long-term commitment of making its road safer. The Portuguese Transport Minister Mario Lino, who was handed the Award at the Conference, said: *"The Portuguese government is proud of this result, yet it did not come about by chance. It is the outcome of a serious and co-ordinated effort between several players, united by the same goal: to save lives on Portuguese roads. This positive result only provides a stronger incentive to the Portuguese government to work harder."*

Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Latvia have also reduced their road toll considerably since 2001 and may hope to halve the number of deaths by 2015.

It is the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which have made the slowest progress averaging only 1.6%. In **Romania, Slovenia, Lithuania, Slovakia and Poland**, numbers of deaths actually rose over the last six years. In **Lithuania**, which holds the worst safety record in the EU⁽³⁾, the situation has been virtually unchanged since the mid-nineties. **Latvia** deserves praise as the only exception among new member states with a reduction of 25% over 2001-2007.

Last year saw a worrying number of countries recording a rise in the number of road deaths compared to 2006, including countries with a long tradition of road safety such as **Denmark** (+34%), **Finland** (+12%), **Sweden** (+6%) and **Switzerland** (+4%). Unfortunately, the **Czech Republic** (+15%) did not manage to sustain in 2007 the exceptional 17% drop the year before. **Poland**, after two consecutive years of reduction, saw a 6% increase, setting the country back to 2001 level. The only good news came from **Ireland and Spain** (-7%), **Italy** and **Hungary** (-6%).

"It seems that the push for safer roads, which citizens were led to expect with the setting of the 50% target, has lost momentum in the majority of EU states," said Graziella Jost, PIN Programme Manager. *"All countries must now re-double their efforts if they are not to thwart the progress of others and hold back the Union as a whole."*

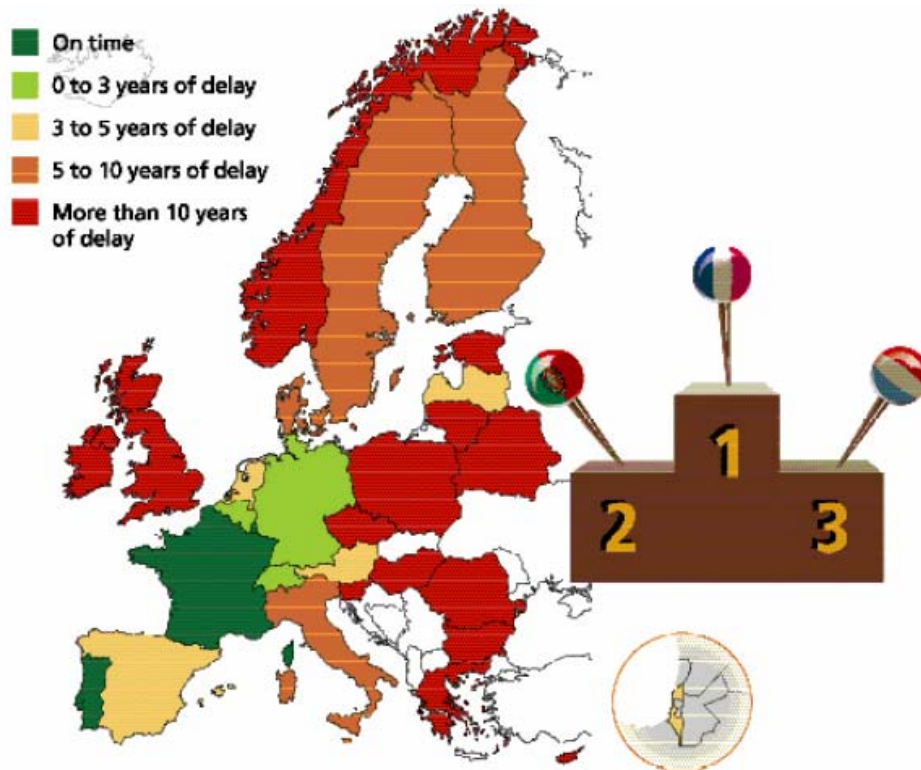
You can download the 2nd PIN Annual Report at www.etsc.be/PIN-publications.php For more information please contact Graziella Jost, PIN Project Manager, Graziella.Jost@etsc.be mob. +32 (0)498 51 65 62, or Evgueni Pogorelov, Communications Officer, Evgueni.Pogorelov@etsc.be mob. +32 (0)484 94 87 09.

Notes for 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. ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 40 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. www.etsc.be.

ETSC's Road Safety Performance Index (PIN) Programme was launched in 2006 to compare country performances in road safety. It currently includes 30 countries - the EU 27 as well as Switzerland, Norway and Israel. Cross-country comparisons are published four times a year in the series of Road Safety PIN Flashes. www.etsc.be/PIN

(2) *Expected year of reaching the EU target, based on the average annual reductions over the period 2001-2007 (2001-2006 for the UK)*



France, Luxembourg, Portugal – on time

Belgium, Germany, Switzerland – 0 to 3 years delay

Spain, the Netherlands, Austria, Latvia – 3 to 5 years delay

Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Finland – 5 to 10 years delay

Greece, Poland, the UK, Ireland, Czech Republic,... – More than 10 years of delay

(3) In 2007 the average road mortality rate per million population in the **EU-27** was 87, against 142 in the **USA** (in 2006) and 79 in **Australia**. **Lithuania** has the worst rate in the EU at 218 deaths per million population.

To see the individual EU countries' road mortality rates per million population, please go to Annex, Chapter 1, Table 4, 2nd Road Safety PIN Annual Report, www.etsc.be/PIN-publications.php