

## Transport Safety Lunches

### "Save yourself" - Seat belt reminders in all European cars

**Chairman:** Antonio Avenoso (ETSC)

**Panelists:** Anders Lie (Swedish Road Administration), Peter Schmitz (European Commission), Tjark Kreuzinger (Toyota Motor Europe), Pablo López (FITSA), Franziska Achterberg (Road Safety Performance Index (PIN), ETSC)

Seat belts are a highly effective way of reducing serious and fatal injuries to car occupants. It is estimated that wearing a seat belt can reduce the risk of being killed in a crash by up to 60%. Yet, despite the legal obligation to wear a seat belt, wearing rates still vary greatly across the EU. Only few EU countries show driver rates of 90% and over.

The majority of non-users are not in principle against using a seat belt. These people can be persuaded to buckle up by using seat belt reminders. These effective devices send out visual and auditory signals that alert the occupant that he or she is not belted. Up to 99% of car drivers will use their belt if reminded by such a device.

Since 2002, EuroNCAP has proven to be a prime driver for seat belt reminder promotion across the EU. Today, about half of the new vehicles sold in Europe are fitted with such a device.

- How can the implementation of seat belt reminders be further accelerated?
- How can we achieve a 100% penetration?
- Is the current EuroNCAP protocol a sufficient incentive for manufacturers?
- What can governments do to promote seat belt reminders?
- Do we need EU legislation to ensure that all cars are equipped with advanced seat belt reminders?

ETSC invites you to discuss these and other questions during a Transport Safety Lunch in Brussels. During this event, we will also launch a new **ETSC policy paper** on "Seat Belt Reminders. Implementing advanced safety technology in Europe's cars" and a new ranking under the **Road Safety Performance Index (PIN)** on the proportion of new cars equipped with seat belt reminders in the different countries of Europe.



European Transport Safety Council

ETSC's Transport Safety Lunches are the site for openly debating promising and successful European approaches to prevent both accidents and injuries in transportation. They bring together decision makers from the transport sector in Brussels, thus establishing a platform to exchange information and views for all those interested in transport safety.

Following a buffet lunch the experts provide the audience with an insight into innovative transport safety work. By addressing the most pressing problems they are paving the way for sharing knowledge and experience of how to best reduce transport-related accidents and injuries.

The Lunches provide good opportunities for both public authorities from all EU countries and private companies from all transport sectors to present their technical and organisational measures for the improvement of safety and security within the different modes of transport.

Dr. Jörg Beckmann, ETSC's Executive Director

## **ETSC's Transport Safety Lunch**

On 25 October 2006 from 12:30 to 15:00

### **"Save yourself" - Seat belt reminders in all European cars**

At Scotland House Conference Centre, Rond Point Schuman 6

**Free of charge  
Limited seats**

Please register online before the **18-October 2006**: [www.etsc.be](http://www.etsc.be)

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