



The European Transport Safety Council

## News Release

Embargoed until 6<sup>th</sup> April 2004

### ETSC commitment strengthens Commission Road Safety Charter

The European Commission today invited ETSC<sup>1</sup> to be among the first signatories to the EU Road Safety Charter<sup>2</sup>. In signing the Charter Dr. Jörg Beckmann, ETSC Executive Director, committed ETSC to **broaden and deepen the charter beyond road transport**.

*"Our commitment to the Charter is to ensure that actors in each mode of transport share and learn safety lessons from each other" said Dr. Jörg Beckmann. "We have committed to the launch of a new, cross-modal platform - the **European Transport Safety Platform** - that will engage experts, transport operators, and decision makers from all modes of transport to strive for safety improvements in all modes. **This commitment strengthens the work to meet the road safety target, whilst broadening the activities for safer transport beyond roads**" he added.*

The European Transport Safety Platform (ETSP)<sup>3</sup> will identify examples of best safety practice from one or more modes and provide experts, practitioners and decision makers with a forum to explore what lessons can be drawn for their own mode. In particular, it will bring the experience of safer modes of transport to the road sector, and thereby assist efforts to halve the number of EU road fatalities by 2010<sup>4</sup>.

Notes follow on second page.

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## Notes to Editors:

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<sup>1</sup> The European Transport Safety Council is a Brussels-based independent non-profitmaking organisation dedicated to the reduction of the number and severity of transport crash injuries in Europe. ETSC seeks to identify and promote effective measures on the basis of international scientific research and best practice in areas which offer the greatest potential for a reduction in transport crashes and casualties. It brings together 27 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across EU Member States to forge consensus about research-based safety priorities.

<sup>2</sup> The European Commission's Road Safety Charter is a major pillar in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Road Safety Action Programme which aims to halve EU road fatalities by 2010.

<sup>3</sup> It is envisaged that the ETSP will be financed largely from private sponsorship and will meet in a venue near the European Parliament on a bi-monthly basis. More information on the development of the ETSP will be released over time when available.

<sup>4</sup> Achieving this target poses a severe challenge, and will only be possible when all possible avenues for action are explored.