

## **“Roads to Respect” calls for students!**

**22 February 2010, Brussels** – In its fourth year the Roads to Respect (R2R) project is ready again to engage young European students in improving the safety of road infrastructures in their own countries. Coordinated by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) <sup>(1)</sup> and supported by the Toyota Fund for Europe and 3M, R2R involves graduate engineering students and young professionals from across Europe in science-based road safety work.

R2R campaigns are designed to make a significant and measurable contribution to bringing down road safety casualties within the concerned area. Through improving road infrastructure, in particular treating high risk sites, most substantial and sustainable casualty reductions can be achieved in relatively short time and at relatively low cost.

After having crossed up to 14 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Spain) between 2007 and 2009, this year the R2R programme will focus on infrastructure safety in Italy, Poland and, for the first time, Bosnia. Between March and May 2010 ETSC staff will tour 15 universities with a one-hour lecture on infrastructure safety engineering and high risk site management. After identifying a high risk site in their country, 15 selected students will participate in a one-week camp in Brussels in September 2010 for training on infrastructure safety and effective road safety lobbying.

Students will then return to their home countries and try to apply their newly acquired skills to convince their local politicians or local administration to fix the high risk site they had previously identified. At a ceremony in Brussels in September 2011 the most active participants of the 2010 programme will be awarded for their achievements.

Previous students' experiences confirmed the success of R2R since it addresses future professionals who can experience the opportunity to put into practice their academic skills together with an in-depth technical training during the Camp.

*“The R2R programme gave me the possibility to contribute to the road safety of my community and to improve quality and safety of streets in towns and the road network in my country”,* said Petros Sekeris, one of the winning students in R2R 2008.

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### **Notes to Editors:**

(1) **The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)** ([www.etsc.eu](http://www.etsc.eu)) 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 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.