

NEWS RELEASE

## Road safety at work in the spotlight in Spain

**9 June 2011, Oviedo** – The International PRAISE Seminar “Business to Business” was held today in Oviedo. It was a great opportunity to discuss work-related road safety issues in Spain and in other European Countries; to exchange companies’ good practices on improving employees safety, and to discuss possible actions to be undertaken by SMEs.

Using the roads is a necessary part of everyone’s daily business, very often and increasingly for work-related purposes. It is therefore unacceptable that an ordinary activity leads to an excessively high level of injury and death. In 2009 in Spain, there were over 831 fatal work accidents, of which about a third had to do with traffic.

It is extremely important to raise awareness about the role that governments and employers can take in developing new initiatives to address this situation. This is the reason why in 2009 the European Transport Safety Council<sup>1</sup> launched the PRAISE project.

Following the good results of the first International PRAISE seminar in Spain on June 2010, the aim of today PRAISE “Business To Business” seminar was to facilitate best practice exchange among European companies, Spanish in particular, through three round tables that focused on some of the most important issues on work-related road safety.

*Round table 1: Accidents in commuting and missions* presented some case studies of effective actions taken by some European companies to improve employees safety.

*Round table 2: Road safety management in SME* discussed what SMEs can do to tackle work related road safety issues and provide a safer work place for their employees.

*Round table 3: Distraction* aimed to offer employers insight on how to minimise distractions, caused by a variety of factors, including ‘nomadic devices’, as mobile phones and portable navigation devices (PNDs).

This event was organised in cooperation with the Asturian Institute of Prevention of Labor Risks and the Fundaciòn MAPFRE.

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Background:

“Preventing Road Accidents and Injuries for the Safety of Employees” (PRAISE) aims to increase road safety in the work context. It aims to “praise” good practices in order to help employers secure high road safety standards for their employees. The project is co-funded by the European Commission, the German Road Safety Council, the Swiss Council for Accident Prevention (bfu) and the MAPFRE Foundation.

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<sup>1</sup>ETSC is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to reducing the numbers of deaths and injuries in transport in Europe. The ETSC seeks to identify and promote research-based measures with a high safety potential. It brings together 45 national and international organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe. [www.etsc.eu](http://www.etsc.eu)