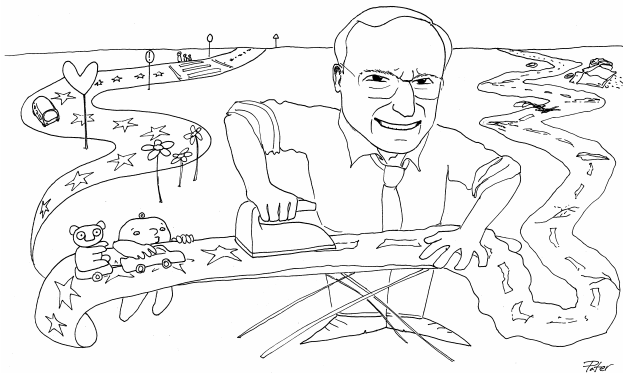


NEWS RELEASE
Brussels, 15 June 2005

Commissioner Barrot is first VOICE Personality



The first VOICE Personality has been awarded last week to European Commission Vice President and Commissioner for Transport, Mr. Jacques Barrot. This award is given for his commitment to the European Parliament at his confirmation hearing in September 2004 – repeated on his Commission web page⁽¹⁾ – that “improving road safety will be one of [his] top priorities” during his term of office.

VOICE wishes Mr. Barrot every success in pursuing the priority of road safety with his colleagues and in the preparation of the mid term review of the Community’s road safety action programme.

The award is an original drawing, which shows Commission Vice President and Commissioner for Transport “ironing” a road, in reference to his efforts to make roads safer also for vulnerable road users.

The VOICE Personality Award is an element of the VOICE campaign “Vulnerable road user Organisations In Cooperation across Europe”, coordinated by ETSC⁽²⁾. VOICE represents a coalition of interest groups⁽³⁾ who wish to raise awareness of the safety needs of vulnerable road users among EU policy makers. “This should lead to greater responsibility by our leaders for the protection of all road users, particularly cyclists and pedestrians” said Frazer Goodwin, Policy Officer at ETSC.

This cartoon, drawn by artist Dagmara Pater, can be seen on the VOICE website⁽⁴⁾ and is also available on request at ETSC for reproduction following its publication in last week’s edition of the European Voice Newspaper.

Notes to Editors:

(1)

Jacques Barrot on the official website of the European Commission:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/commission_barroso/barrot/index_en.htm

Hearing of Jacques Barrot, 29 September 2004:

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//TEXT+PRESS+NR-20040929-1+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=S>

(2) The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), founded in 1993, 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 27 national and international organisations in membership, leading transport safety experts from across Europe.

(3) Currently the coalition of VOICE includes:

AGE – the European Older People's Platform
ANEC – the European consumer voice in standardisation
EPHA Environment Network
European Child Safety Alliance
European Disability Forum
European Transport Safety Council
European Public Health Alliance
European Federation for Transport and Environment

(4) VOICE website: <http://www.etsc.be/Voice.php>

To get the cartoon for reproduction please contact Frazer Goodwin at ETSC (policy@etsc.be)