



NEWS RELEASE

EU Infrastructure Investments to Be Conditional on Road Safety

19th October 2011 – Today the European Commission unveiled its overhaul of the guidelines for the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and a new financing mechanism. “We welcome the prioritisation of “road safety” when promoting projects of common interest. We now urge the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers to acknowledge the importance of granting EU funding only to sectors of the road TEN-T network compliant with the Infrastructure Safety Directive¹ and the Tunnel Safety Directive²,” said Antonio Avenoso, ETSC³ Executive Director.

“Between 1.5 and 2 billion EUR of the EU budget is spent every year on building roads in the EU. EU member states and the European Commission must ensure that this huge amount of money is spent in such a way as to ensure EU roads become safer,” said Mr. Avenoso. “We urge EU legislators, both in the Parliament and the Council to view the Commission’s proposed review of the TEN-T guidelines, and the accompanying financial regulation, as a way of cutting societal costs in the future. The EU potential savings from reaching the new EU 2020 road safety target by steady annual progress is estimated at 182 billion EUR⁴ over the decade.”

The Guidelines foresee the provision of secure parking areas as a priority, this is important for managing fatigue amongst professional drivers and thus reducing risk. The reference made in the guidelines to ITS safety applications, under the ITS Directive and Action Plan, is also welcome. Promoting walking and cycling is one of the new priorities of the Transport White Paper within urban areas. The TEN-T urban infrastructure nodes should reinforce this new commitment by encouraging safe and sustainable integrated transport options especially for the *last mile*.

“We welcome the guarantees for safe infrastructure within the TEN-T Guidelines that make a contribution to the new EU target of halving road deaths by 2020 compared with 2010,” concluded Mr. Avenoso.

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Notes to editors:

¹ Directive 2008/96/EC on road infrastructure safety management.

² Directive 2004/54/EC on the minimum requirements for tunnels on the TEN-T network.

³ 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

⁴ ETSC (2011), 5th Road Safety PIN Report. 2010 Road Safety Target Outcome: 100,000 Fewer Deaths since 2001 <http://www.etsc.eu/documents/pin/report.pdf>