European Transport Safety Council

Road Safety PIN

NEWS RELEASE

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First country ranking under the Road Safety PIN

A first ranking published today under the Road Safety Performance Index (PIN)[1] of the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC)[2], shows that fast progress in road safety is possible for every country, whatever its starting point.

Over the last four years, France, Luxembourg and Belgium have been able to cut road deaths by more than 25%. France is the leading example showing a 35% drop in road deaths between 2001 and 2005, closely followed by Luxembourg (34%) and Belgium (27%).

The data gathered by the ETSC[3] also show that the majority of the EU countries will have difficulty to contribute their share of the EU's target to reduce by half the yearly number of road deaths until the year 2010[4] Among the countries which have progressed least over the last years are Lithuania, Hungary, Ireland and Poland.

Evidence gathered from national experts suggests that those countries that recorded fastest progress have achieved this through a combination of factors including strong political leadership (e.g. French President Chirac opening the "fight against road violence" in 2002), raising compliance with traffic safety law (e.g. tightening police checks), increasing public awareness for road safety, and improving infrastructure (e.g. implementing low-cost traffic calming measures).

At a press event held today at the Finnish Permanent Representation in Brussels, Juha Valtonen from the Finnish Ministry of Transport, said on behalf of the EU Presidency: "*After the first steps, setting ambitious targets and creating national programs, you will find plenty of obstacles to real safety measures. To remove them one by one you need a lot of pressure, possible to attain only by raising public awareness. An excellent tool to get it is to benchmark and rank activities and compare experiences in the other countries.*"

"*This ranking shows that all countries, from the frontrunners to the underperformers, can achieve good progress by introducing well-studied measures - if only they want to. More than sharing responsibility, Member States should 'take' their responsibilities.*" Jörg Beckmann, ETSC Executive Director stated.

Other speakers at the press event included representatives from the three fastest-improving countries: Jean Chapelon, General Secretary of the French Interministerial Road Safety Observatory; Renaat Landuyt, Federal Minister for Mobility and Transport, President of the Belgian Road Safety Institute and Sam Weissen, Transport Councellor, Permanent Representation of Luxembourg to the EU.

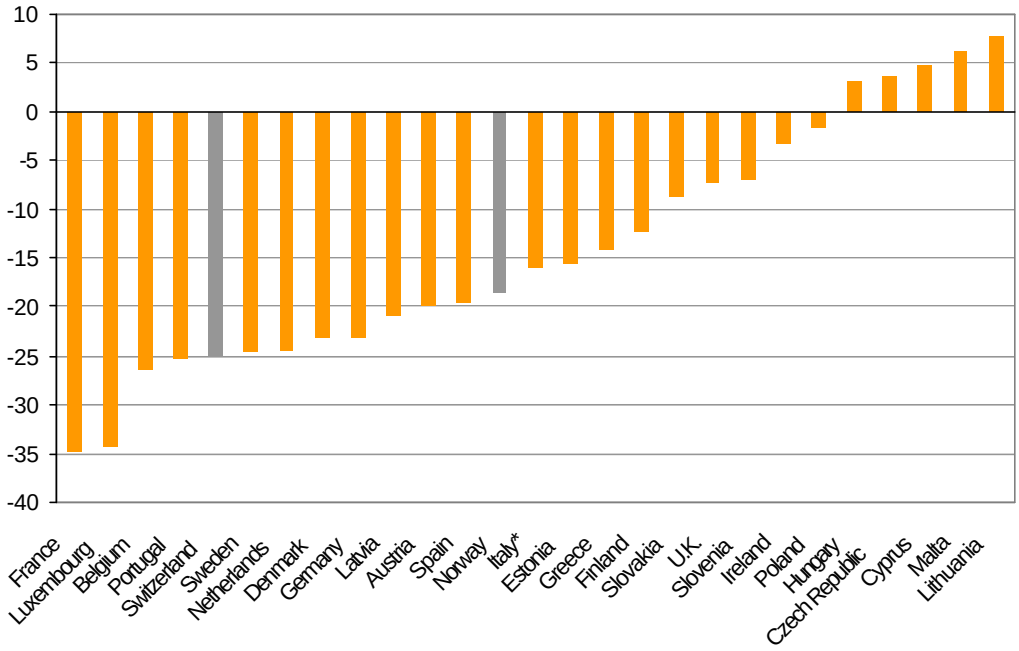
More detailed information can be found in the Road Safety PIN Flash 2 on www.etsc.be/PIN. For more information contact: PIN Programme Director franziska.achterberg@etsc.be or PIN Programme Officer graziella.jost@etc.be

Notes to Editors:

(1) The Road Safety Performance Index was set up in June 2006 to compare Member States' performance in all areas of road safety. It receives financial support from Swedish Road Administration and Toyota Motor Europe. See http://www.etsc.be/PIN.

(2) The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) is a Brussels-based non-profit making organisation dedicated to the reduction of transport crashes and casualties in Europe. ETSC seeks to identify and promote effective measures on the basis of international scientific research and best practice. It brings together 35 international and national organisations concerned with transport safety from across Europe.

(3) Reduction in road deaths 2001-2005 (in %). Source: CARE and national data



*2001-2004

(4) The EU has set itself the target of halving road deaths from 2001 to 2010. In 2003, a Road Safety Action Programme was adopted and in February 2006, the European Commission carried out a Mid-Term Review of this Programme. See http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road/roadsafety/rsap_midterm/index_en.htm