Road Safety: the European Union policy

Jean-Eric Holzapfel, Chargé d’Affaires a.i.
Delegation of the European Commission to Belarus
the ‘-50%’ objective

In 2001 the European Commission has set a target of halving the number of road casualties by 2010.

In the language of figures this means the reduction from 50,000 to 25,000 – in other words, saving 27,000 lives.
Fatalities – evolution 1990-2010

Source: - CARE (EU road accidents database)
- National data
The EU road safety policy

• White Paper on Transport (2001)

• European Road Safety Action Programme (2003)
An integrated approach

Three crucial components:

• **Road Infrastructure safety**

• **Vehicle safety** – passive and active safety, technical inspection

• **Human behaviour** – education, campaigns, driving licences
Road Infrastructure Safety

- To ensure that safety is integrated in all phases of planning, design, construction and operation of road infrastructure

- To bring about a common high level of safety of roads in all EU Member States

- To use the limited funds for more efficient construction and maintenance of roads.
European Car Assessment Programme

Euro NCAP provides motoring consumers with a realistic and independent assessment of the safety performance of cars sold in Europe.

• The safer the car is the more stars it will receive.

• The minimum requirement for the car to be sold in Europe is to have 4 stars.
Human Behaviour

To improve behaviour, there are four major initiatives in which the European Commission is involved:

- Regulating the conditions for issuing Drivers Licenses
- Co-operating, co-ordinating and co-funding European campaigns for road safety
- Training and education, through legislative work (link to Directive) and projects
- Enforcing existing traffic rules
Unification of Driving Licences

From 110 models…

… to a single model
EU-wide Road Safety Campaigns

European Night without Accidents

Helmet wearing

Level Crossings
A shared responsibility

- **Public:**
  - EU institutions
  - National governments
  - Local authorities

- **Private:**
  - Car industry
  - Transport companies

- **Every citizen**
The European Road Safety Charter is a European participatory platform made up of enterprises, associations, research institutions and public authorities.

These actors undertake to carry out concrete actions and share their good practices in order to resolve the road safety problems that they encounter in their day-to-day environments. The objective of the Charter is to help reduce road fatalities.

The Charter has more than 1,200 signatories.

The European Road Safety Charter is much more than a policy document. It is an invitation by the European Commission to take concrete actions, assess results and further heighten awareness about the need to reduce road accident fatalities.

www.erscharter.eu
European Road Safety Observatory

- The European Road Safety Observatory coordinates all Community activities in the fields of road accident and injury data collection and analysis.

- It is the forum in the EU for the exchange of information on best practice and, ultimately, organises and manages Community best practice guidelines.

- European Road Safety Observatory has to improve the dissemination of the findings of road-safety research projects funded by the EU and those carried out under other programmes, and ensure the dissemination of information.

www.erso.eu
Website

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety
Thank you

for your attention!