



UNECE

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Press Release ECE/TRANS/07/P05
Geneva, 23 April 2007

The First UN Global Road Safety Week starts with a World Youth Assembly in Geneva

The First UN Global Road Safety Week starts today 23 April with a World Youth Assembly in Geneva.

The First UN Global Road Safety Week, which will take place from 23 until 29 April 2007, is being held pursuant to a UN General Assembly resolution on the basis of a proposal made by the UNECE.

“I am very pleased that the First UN Global Road Safety Week follows the model of the four Road Safety Weeks that UNECE has organized since 1990: around a common theme, and with a common logo and a common slogan”, said Mr. Marek Belka, Executive Secretary of the UNECE.

For the Global Road Safety Week, the common theme that has been chosen is Young Road Users including young drivers.

Many UNECE Governments, among others Albania, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, UK and the USA, will organize road safety activities this week. In many other countries around the world, hundreds of road safety events will take place this week and in the following weeks.

“I am also very pleased that the European Commission has decided to celebrate the European Road Safety Day on 27 April, therefore, within the Week, and I commend the European Commission for its efforts to halve the number of people killed on the EU roads” added Mr. Belka.

For the World Youth Assembly, the main global event of the Week, about 400 young people from about one hundred countries around the world meet in Geneva on 23 and 24 April to discuss the safety of young road users from the various national perspectives and to adopt a Declaration aimed at improving the safety of young road users.

Activities around the World Youth Assembly include an exhibition, a film festival, a literary competition and the release of 1049 balloons, representing the number of young people killed everyday on the world roads.

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In the UNECE region, despite the progress made in the past decades, still about 150,000 people died and over 5.5 million were injured in 2004. The road safety situation is particularly bad in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. For example, relative to the number of vehicles, the number of people killed in this region in 2004 was almost 10 times higher than in the EU-15. As to the young people killed on UNECE roads, its number is 29,000.

Road safety is a major priority of the UNECE, which has developed rules and regulations for safer roads, safer vehicles and safer driving behaviour. These rules and regulations are constantly kept up to the best available technologies and to the best national practices. They are applied in many countries worldwide.

In addition to this regulatory work, the UNECE has organized since 1990 four Road Safety Weeks in the UNECE region.

For further information see: www.unece.org/trans/globalroadsafetyweek or contact:

José Capel Ferrer, Director, or
Marie-Noëlle Poirier
UNECE Transport Division
Palais des Nations
CH - 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Phone: +41 (0) 22 917 2400, 917 3259

Fax: +41 (0) 22 917 0039

E-mail: roadsafety@unece.org