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## TISPOL Bulletin, 17 December 2013

Dear Colleague,

We have just concluded our Alcohol and Drug Enforcement operation across Europe, and judging by the number of articles, broadcast reports and tweets that have come to our attention, police and road safety professionals have done an excellent job in raising awareness of this most important issue. The work of the road policing officer is important throughout the year, but perhaps especially so at Christmas, when too many families have to live with the loss of a loved one due to a road traffic collision.

It is this that drives us to do everything we can to reduce deaths and serious injuries on the roads. Police officers can and so often DO make a difference to safety, not just by issuing penalty notices but by their role in reassuring law-abiding citizens and deterring those with a low regard for their own safety and that of others.

This year's December drink-drive operation may formally be over, but I know that these vital activities will continue throughout the year, day and night.

Let me reflect on what we believe have been two good things for TISPOL in 2013. First, the Conference IN MANCHESTER and the excellent feedback that has come from it and still remains from it, which is very encouraging for us as we continue our planning for the 2014 Conference. Second, the growing understanding of the 'roads policing model' and the willingness of an increasing number of countries to embrace its principles. This aligns exactly with our strategic priorities in the months and years to come.

I will identify two key issues for 2014. The first is to improve our understanding of serious road traffic injuries, so that we can work with the right strategic partners, tackle the causes and make significant inroads to reducing this unacceptable burden on society. This will form a key part of our Conference, taking place in Manchester on 30 September and 1 October.

The second is to continue and develop our commitment to the roads policing model. In 2014 TISPOL will be drawing up specific operations to address roads policing issues in Europe. Details will follow in forthcoming Bulletins.

Finally, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of everyone involved with TISPOL, to wish you and your family a happy Christmas and a

safe, prosperous 2014. Our first Bulletin of 2014 will be issued on Tuesday 14 January.

**Ian Hamill, TISPOL General Secretary**

## **Ireland's Garda step up Christmas safety campaign**



Following the launch of An Garda Síochána's Christmas Enforcement Campaign, by Assistant Commissioner John Twomey on Wednesday 11 December, Gardaí carried out a number of high visibility checkpoints. A Mandatory Alcohol Testing checkpoint was posted at Swords, County Dublin. Over 200 drivers were tested, resulting in [>>> more](#)

## **UK: Police and industry present a united front against drink driving**



Police across East Anglia have joined forces with a local vehicle manufacturer this Christmas to present a united front against drink driving. During December, officers from Norfolk Constabulary, Suffolk Constabulary, Essex Police, Bedfordshire Police, Hertfordshire Constabulary and Cambridgeshire Constabulary are taking part in the TISPOL and ACPO campaigns.

Chief Inspector Chris Spinks, head of the Norfolk and Suffolk Roads Policing Unit, said: "This is a wide reaching campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving, so no matter where you are driving - in your home county or across the region, you can expect the same zero tolerance approach."

The region's police have the use of a fully liveried Lotus Evora S to help officers engage with drivers and >> [more](#)

### Malta: seven drivers detected in early morning alcohol control



**DRINK  
DRIVE  
LOSE A LIFE**



Members of the Police Traffic section were engaged in an operation early yesterday morning (15 December 2013), between Pembroke and the Regional Road tunnel. The ultimate aim was to prevent motor vehicle accidents resulting from driving under the influence of alcohol. "A total of seven persons shall be arraigned in Court in the coming days, since they were found positive for driving with an alcohol level over the limit stipulated by law. While the Traffic Section will continue with this exercise on a regular

basis, our advice is always:- save a life, don't drink and drive," said Senior Inspector Mario Tonna.

### Estonia: first 24-hour enforcement marathon



Estonian police recently held their first ever traffic safety and supervision marathon "liiklustalgud" and for 24 hours police officers were out working at hotspots people had suggested. During the 24 hour marathon, police forces all over Estonia were out and dealt with 420 suggestions made by the public. Riho Tänak, commissioner of the Traffic Bureau in Police and Border Guard police, said: "The Estonian traffic marathon was not about fining a lot of drivers, but taking the message of being considerate of other road users to as many people as possible. The word talgud in Estonian means "improving something together" and that was what the day is all about."

## **WATCH THE VIDEO: winter breath tests on a snowy road in Finland**



Chief Inspector Jarmo Puustinen of the Finnish National Traffic Police introduces an alcohol check taking place on a cold winter afternoon just outside the city of Mikkeli in southern Finland >> [watch now](#)

## **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from everyone at TISPOL!**

We will return with our first Bulletin of 2014 on Tuesday 14 January so do please continue to send us your stories, photographs and videos.

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