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TISPOL Bulletin, 4 June 2013



Welcome to our fortnightly Bulletin, which is packed with lots of information in relation to our road safety and road security work.

Our latest Newsletter has just been published and you can find it by **following this link**.

Last month, TISPOL co-ordinated a 'pilot' operation – 'Operation Voyager' in co-operation with EUROPOL and a number of TISPOL countries. The focus for this operation was cross border long distance buses. This was a very successful operation which resulted in crimes being detected.

Please take a look at the **programme for the TISPOL Conference** taking place in Manchester at the beginning of October. We were very pleased to receive a number of confirmations from delegates and exhibitors in the first few days after bookings opened. I do hope you will be able to join us for what I believe will be an excellent and worthwhile two-day event.

Last, congratulations to Meryl James of the Welsh Assembly Government, whose name was chosen at random from the people who entered our recent general knowledge quiz. A €50 prize will be on its way to her shortly.

I hope you will enjoy the rest of this Bulletin.

Ian Hamill (General Secretary)

Brussels Safety and Security Conferences





TISPOL representatives from across Europe were in Brussels recently, taking part in meetings of the TISPOL Council and the various working groups. They came together for two short conferences on road safety and road security. At the first of these conferences, it was good to hear Henrik Hololei (Head of Cabinet for European Vice-President Siim Kallas) reminding the audience that Cross Border Enforcement (CBE) will not only put a stop to people 'driving away from justice' but will also save many lives. He also outlined the European Commission's commitment to reducing serious injuries from road collisions.

As Mr Hololei said, for every fatality, there are many lifelong disabled, serious and slight injuries, spine and brain injuries that lead to paralysis, horrendous burns and permanent disfigurement. Injury rates remain unacceptably high, which is why the EC has proposed a long-term strategy for reducing injuries. TISPOL fully supports the introduction, from 2014, of a common scale for defining serious injuries. This will become the baseline year for setting reduction targets, and will also assist in avoiding the risk of under-reporting and mis-reporting.

The second conference brought an opportunity for representatives to hear a range of presentations in the field of road security. The numbers involved in European cargo crime are enormous; the latest estimate is an annual cost in the European Union of €8.2 billion, with 75% of crime linked to road transport – a significant challenge for the law enforcement community. Thorsten Neumann of the Transport Asset Protection Association (TAPA) had a clear message: the need to work together, to exchange information and to co-operate with other organisations and agencies. This, of course, is fully in line with TISPOL's strategy.

People trafficking was highlighted at the conference, where children from a Romanian town were illegally trafficked to UK so that they could become involved in all aspects of crime, with the financial proceeds of the crimes being returned to the criminals in Romania. The majority of these children were transported by road.

Germany's latest 24-hour speed enforcement marathon has started





Speeding and reckless driving frequently lead to serious cycle collision on German's roads, but so also do the actions of some cyclists. That's the message to accompany the latest 24-hour 'Blitz' enforcement marathon by police in the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW).

Last year, 81 cyclists were killed in traffic accidents, a significant increase of 17 percent. "The police and local authorities have responded with enforcement concepts developed from reconnaissance and control," Interior Minister Ralf Jäger said before the operation began. >> [More](#)

Ireland: Operation Slow Down



Ireland's Garda Síochána ran another Operation "Slow Down" on Friday and Saturday last week (31 May to 1 June). The objectives of the Operation were to raise awareness of the dangers of inappropriate and excessive speed, reduce the number of speed related collisions, and therefore save lives and reduce injuries on the roads. For the past seven years, there has been a year on year decrease in the number of road fatalities in Ireland. However, as we move into the second half of 2013,

there have been 11 more fatalities on Ireland's roads than at this time last year. This brings to 75, the number of people killed in a road traffic collision to date. >> [More](#)

No future for speeding in Switzerland

Central to the Swiss government's 'Vision Zero' policy has been the idea that there should only be well-trained and capable drivers in fully safe vehicles on well made roads. The 'Via Sicura' concept, as it has been called, has been split in three parts, with implementation of the first part from 1 January 2013.

A key measure is the definition of a speeder (Art 90 Abs 3 SVG). A speeder is someone intentionally not respecting elementary traffic rules and taking the risk to have an accident involving a fatality or serious injury. This can be by not respecting >> [More](#)

Something special from northern England

We were very pleased to notice a most interesting blog posted by a Special Constable in Durham, UK. 'Specials' are volunteer police officers, giving a certain number of hours' unpaid service, sometimes with the support of their employer.

This particular officer described his role as a special constable in road policing, and mentioned his involvement in TISPOL operations.

Have a read of the blog... and if you're on Facebook, then take a moment to 'like' it as well.

Late May snow causes traffic disruption

Less than a month before the summer solstice, snow returned to cause road chaos in parts of Europe. In Scotland on Thursday 23 May, residents said it felt as though winter had never left, as people awoke to a blanket of snow.

Elsewhere in Europe, Swiss authorities warned of snowfall on roads in mountainous regions above 900m, and snow was reported to be falling in some French Alpine villages. >> **More**

US 'not ready for driverless cars'

Self-driving vehicle technology is not yet at a stage that it can be authorised for use by the public for general driving, according to a U.S. Department of Transportation recommendation to state governments issued last week.

If a state decides to permit operation of self-driving vehicles other than for testing, at a minimum it should require that a person licensed to drive self-driving vehicles should be seated in the driver's seat, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in a statement of policy on automated vehicles released Thursday. >> **More**

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