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**TISPOL Bulletin, 9 April 2013**

*General Secretary Ian Hamill writes:*

I attended an excellent conference in London just before Easter, organised by the UK's Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS). The conference took the theme of 'Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics', a remark attributed to 19th century British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli and made famous by American author Mark Twain.

It was a thought-provoking event, giving politicians, academics and statisticians the opportunity to explore the reasons for the fall in road deaths in recent years. While accepting that reductions are of course good news, the question was: do we know enough about the reasons for these dramatic reductions? And if we do not, how can we be confident that the trends will not be reversed or which policies will deliver further casualty reductions?

The conference speakers put forward some worthwhile challenges to the audience. TISPOL is committed to ensuring that momentum is maintained as we work together to bring about a sustained reduction in fatalities and injuries on Europe's roads.

In this Bulletin, you will also find information in relation to two important events:

- a major road policing operation in Denmark, targeting safety and security issues
- a cross-border operation in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Luxembourg, targeting drugs trafficking and drug tourism

**Denmark: 'total control' yields significant results**



Denmark's most comprehensive 'Total Control' took place recently on the Funen freeway E20. During the Multi-Agency Control Operation, police in cooperation with a large number of authorities, checked everything from

driving licences to the contents of lorries with trailers weighing several tonnes. The control was carried out alongside the Tax Authorities, Motor Vehicle Inspectors, Veterinary and Food Administration, Working Environment Authority, Immigration Service, Road Safety Council and the Funen municipalities.

Lorries in particular gave the police and several of the other participating authorities a lot of work. The police's total penalty demand to lorries after the control of the day was DKK 900.000 (around €121,000). To this must be added penalty demands which may come from other authorities in the action. The police registered 144 cases regarding lorries. Two lorries were impounded to ensure that the police obtained the money from the penalties that were issued to the drivers. >> [More](#)

## **UK: police welcome large penalties for tachograph criminals**

Two former directors of a transport company have been order to pay £1,835,793 by a judge, following a Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) hearing at Carlisle Crown Court. On 25 March, 65 year old Patrick James Boyle and 36 year old Mark Anthony Boyle, who are both from Newry, Northern Ireland and former Directors of Boyle Transport Limited, were found to have benefitted from their criminality to the sum of £10,016,810.

Patrick James Boyle has been given six months to pay £1,097,622. If the money is not paid in that time he will have to serve an extra 5 and a half years prison sentence. Mark Anthony Boyle has been given 6 months to pay £738,171. If the money is not paid in that time he will have to serve an extra 4 years prison sentence. Assets held from which the money is to be paid include both family homes, 20 Scania trucks and 35 articulated trailers. >> [More](#)

## **Benelux and France: 26 arrested in cross-border drug operation**

From Thursday 21 to Sunday 24 March 2013, the police services and customs in Benelux and France held an international operation against drug trafficking and drug tourism. A total of 212 police officers and customs officials took part in the Belgian control operation. 26 people were arrested and 12 vehicles were seized.



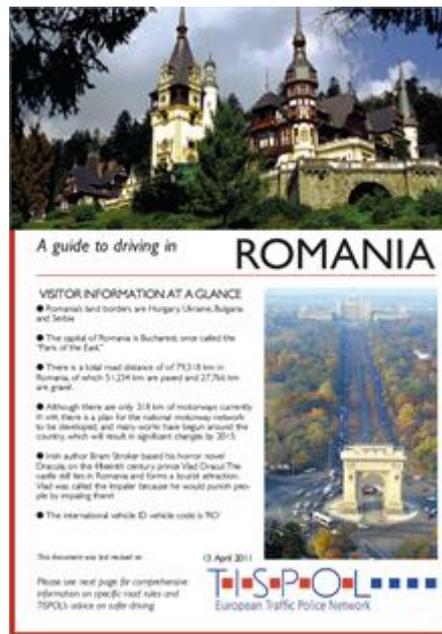
The operation was a great success, thanks to the Benelux Treaty on police cooperation. Since January 2005, the treaty allows police officers to pursue across Benelux countries and control of suspects in three countries. During this operation, controls were carried out along highways and provincial roads, on trains, on buses and in drug buildings. >> [More](#)

## Finland: using officer skills for roadside blood tests

Some suitably qualified police officers in Finland can take blood tests from suspects at the roadside. The officers must of course be health care professionals; in other words, they must have education and experience in this field, as a registered nurse, public health nurse, midwife or laboratory technologist. Officers with this kind of background are usually former health care professionals who changed their career to become police officers.

A police officer with these qualifications and experience (as determined in the Act on Nation Authority for Medico legal Affairs) can give his or her approval to his superior officer and serve as health care personnel doing the blood test. A police officer with the right to take blood tests is not paid any extra salary but, by having the education in two different occupations, he or she is considered to be 'especially-skilled'. >> More

## Updates to TISPOL's Driving Guides



TISPOL maintains a colourful and useful library of guides for motorists visiting any of its member countries.

Accessible easily via the home page of the website, the guides are presented in attractive PDF documents which can be downloaded for future reference. It's important that the guides are reviewed on a regular basis, and the time has come for us to ask you to ensure that your own guide is as up to date as it can be. This means checking the present document, providing the latest

casualty statistics, informing us if any images are out of date and advising of any new regulations that should be included in the information.

## In the next TISPOL Bulletin:

We'll be including an interview on work-related road safety with Deirdre Sinnott, Senior Policy Inspector at Ireland's Health and Safety Authority. This will be published on 23 April 2013.

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