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## Ready for alcohol and drug enforcement week

NEXT Monday 8 December we begin a week-long operation across Europe to raise awareness of the dangers of drink driving and drug driving. The operation will involve officers conducting alcohol and drug checks at any time of the day and night.



Our message this year is simple: your ability to drive safely is impaired by even a small amount of alcohol. So if you have had a drink, do not drive. If you need to drive, then do not drink.

***Please share your results and pictures on Twitter, and do use #TISPOLdrinkdrive***

Drivers can expect highly visible and widespread enforcement of alcohol and drug laws during the operation, at any location and at any time of day or night.

During a similar week-long operation in December 2013, 1.1 million drivers were checked in 31 European countries. Officers reported 15,305 alcohol offences and 2,133 drug offences, as well as more than 2,500 other crimes.

We are keen to make a big impact with this year's operation, and we encourage you to share your activity with us and colleagues across Europe. So please do tweet your results and pictures, and send any specific stories of interest to [media@tispol.org](mailto:media@tispol.org).

**Ruth Purdie, General Secretary**

## New, lower drink-drive limit for Scotland starts on Friday

New legislation regarding the drink driving limit has been approved by Scottish Parliament and the new reduced limit will come into effect on Friday (5 December).

The new limit will see a decrease of 30mg for every 100ml of blood which will change the current limit of 80mg to 50mg. This will bring Scotland in line with most other European countries just in time for the festive period.

[More details >>](#)

## Road policing seminar takes place in Rome



The TISPOL Road Policing Activities (RPA) seminar took place last week on 25 November at the Italian Police Academy in Rome. A total of 46 road policing delegates from more than 30 European countries took part. The seminar was opened and delegates welcomed by Vincenzo Delicato, responsible for EU affairs in the Italian Ministry of Interior.

Senior Italian Police officers, including the Deputy Head of the Italian National Police, Alessandro Marangoni and Giuseppe Bisogno, Head of the Italian National Traffic Police, expressed pleasure at the successful operational work undertaken by TISPOL and road policing officers in Italy and across Europe.

The seminar agenda was very specific, focusing on ANPR, partnerships and intelligence. Also included was an introduction to Italy's commitment to road safety. Presentations by Europol and Supt Paul Keasey of the UK's Central Motorway Police Group were very impressive.

Members of the TISPOL Executive Committee held several meetings with key Italian police chief officers, who demonstrated a strong commitment to road safety and supporting the EC target of 2020.

Deputy Chief of Police Roberto Sgalla said: "The three principles of Prevention, Detection and Education are important in the approach to Road Safety in Italy. We are currently ensuring we take our education programme to schools across our country. We are also committed to supporting the European Commission in respect of the 2020 vision of reducing road deaths."

TISPOL President Aidan Reid responded, thanking the Italian hosts for organising a successful event and outlining TISPOL's commitment. "Dealing with traffic law offenders has had a significant positive impact on safety and security on the roads of Europe. We are delighted that so many colleagues and partners share our commitment to effective road policing," he said.

Other presentations came from Carpol, the Swedish Road Police, UK Road Police and the Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA).

## **New transport commissioner says road safety will be a top priority**



The recently-appointed EU commissioner for transport, Violeta Bulc, has said road safety will be one of the 'top priorities' of her mandate. Speaking in a video message recorded for World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, Mrs Bulc made the 'personal pledge' to the families, friends and colleagues of those that have lost people close to them or have been 'physically or mentally affected' by road collisions.

Over the coming months and years Bulc will play a crucial role in the shaping of road safety policies including the new serious injury strategy and target; infrastructure safety; new safety rules for road vehicles as well as an upcoming review of Europe's overall approach to road safety, first published in 2010.

## **Operation Voyager 2015**



Following a meeting in Rome last week, TISPOL is happy to confirm that Operation VOYAGER is to take place on Friday 3 July 2015. Voyager is a one-day multi-agency road policing enforcement operation which targets long-

distance trans-European buses. Its purpose is to detect and disrupt cross-border crime by controlling cross-border bus passengers at major terminals as they arrive and depart, as well as at border crossings or at motorway service areas.

## France, Germany and UK: increase in fatalities



Partial data for this year show increases in the numbers of road deaths in the EU's three most populous countries raising fears that 2014 could mark an end to more than ten years of progress in improving road safety in the EU.

UK government figures released earlier this month and shared by our colleagues at ETSC, show a 3% increase in people killed and a 4% increase in people killed and seriously injured (KSI) with a 1.7% increase in traffic during the year ending June 2014.

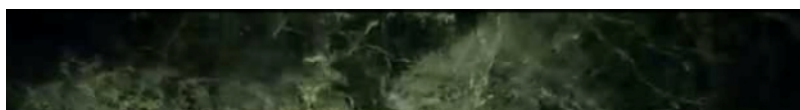
David Davies, executive director of PACTS, said: "It is worrying. We've had fairly consistent declines in road casualties – big drops from 2007 to 2010, and then a gentle decline – but now the fear is that after the cutbacks that have taken place in road safety and expertise, the chickens are coming home to roost."

Data from France show an increase in the number killed of 4% for the first ten months of this year with pedestrians and cyclists sharing a greater burden of the increases in deaths than other road users according to France's national road safety observatory (ONISR).

Christophe Ramond of Association Prévention Routière said increased use of distracting multimedia applications on mobile devices, notably with the rise of 4G technology, could be partly responsible for the increase.

Germany has reported a 2% increase in the number of people killed between January and September.

## UK: "brake before the bend..."





'Brake before the bend' is the slogan of a new UK public awareness campaign warning of the risks to be found on country roads. Launched by the UK government's THINK! road safety campaign, the accompanying facts and figures show that 60% of UK road deaths occur on rural roads, 11 times more than the number of motorway deaths.

Using computer generated imagery the short clip allows the viewer to see around corners and through buildings and trees. The powerful film, which ends with a head-on collision between a tractor and a car, concludes with the caption: "If you could see the danger through the bend, you'd slow down. Brake before the bend, not on it."

[Watch the video clip now](#)

## **Malta: man jailed for stabbing driver in road rage incident**

A man has been jailed for almost two-and-half years after he was found guilty of stabbing a driver in a road rage incident in Zebbug three years ago.

Frankie Falzon, 36, from Zebbug, had originally been charged with attempting to murder fellow hometown resident Philip Micallef but the prosecution then changed the charge to that of grievous injury.

There were also other charges including the possession of a knife during the commission of crime, breaching public peace, driving under the influence of alcohol and breaching the conditions of a conditional discharge.

The incident took place at around 8.45pm on April 17 2011, in Main Street, Zebbug,

The court heard how the police carried out a breathalyser test on Mr Falzon, who was found to have a higher alcohol level than allowed. In her judgment, Magistrate Doreen Clarke said there were a number of factors which made the court doubt Mr Falzon's credibility in the version that he had given the police and the court.

The magistrate jailed him for two years over this stabbing case and a further five months for breaching the conditional discharge. Apart from fining him €116, the court also ordered him to pay almost €3,000 in court expenses related to this case and banned him from driving for five years.

## Next Bulletin: Tuesday 16 December 2014

If you have any news stories, features, videos or pictures you would like us to include, please email [media@tispol.org](mailto:media@tispol.org) by Wednesday 10 December. Thank you.

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