

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- **TISPOL Bulletin, 14 January 2014**
- **More than 800 crimes detected in TISPOL's truck and bus enforcement operations**
- **Poland releases preliminary road safety results for 2013**
- **Benefits of weather services greater than costs**
- **Irish police conduct weekend crackdown on drink-driving across Dublin**
- **Police in Malta run 'morning after' alcohol checks**
- **WATCH THE VIDEO: safer driving in times of flood**

**TISPOL Bulletin, 14 January 2014**

**Dear Colleague,**

First of all, may I wish you a Happy New Year and best wishes for 2014. In our last Bulletin, I mentioned two key issues for this year, and I think it is worth reiterating these now. The first is to improve our understanding of serious road traffic injuries, so that we can work with our strategic partners to tackle the causes and make significant inroads to reducing this unacceptable burden on society.

The second is to continue to develop our commitment to the roads policing model. In 2014 TISPOL will be drawing up specific operations to address roads policing issues in Europe, and we are considering a number of options to assist in sharing good practice at strategic and operational levels. This is vital in order to prevent and detect crime on European roads. I will return to these issues in the near future.

Results of TISPOL's Truck and Bus Operations which took place in the Autumn of 2013 are included below. We will have a special feature on our Christmas drink-drive results in the next Bulletin (28 January). In this edition, we also include a report from Poland, whose preliminary results for 2013 show further significant falls in the number of people killed and seriously injured on the country's roads. It is encouraging to see that Poland is also going through a recruitment process to increase the number of its traffic police by more than 1,000 - definitely good news at the start of a new year.

Finally for this Bulletin, there is an emphasis on the weather and how to mitigate its effect on road traffic. From Finland there is a study on the costs and benefits of weather services, while from the UK there is a brand new short video giving advice on how to stay safe on the road during times of flood.

With best wishes,

**Ian Hamill, TISPOL General Secretary**

**More than 800 crimes detected in TISPOL's truck and bus enforcement operations**





A week-long TISPOL safety operation across Europe has led to the removal from the road of some 2,929 trucks for dangerous defects. The action followed checks of more than 147,000 trucks across 29 countries on 7-13 October. Officers also detected and dealt with offences connected with irregular immigration and human trafficking (18), possession of drugs (5), firearms (6), stolen goods (36) and other crimes (735) >> [more](#)

At the same time, TISPOL co-ordinated an operation which involved European cross border long-distance buses travelling through 16 countries. More than 27,000 vehicles were controlled, resulting in the detection of 5,532 traffic offences and a further 66 crimes. These included five illegal immigration and human trafficking offences, three drug detections and 58 other crimes.

### **Poland releases preliminary road safety results for 2013**



4.5% fewer accidents, almost 8% fewer fatalities, a 5% decrease in injuries and a 5% reduction in drink-drivers: these are initial figures in the area of road safety from Poland last year. These optimistic statistics confirmed that police actions are effective and reduce traffic incidents and their consequences. Also, the Chief of Polish Police has taken the decision to increase the number of traffic police officers to comprise 10% of all police numbers. The next step is to fill the

vacancies, and bring the number of traffic officers to 9,100 >> [more](#)

## Benefits of weather services greater than costs



The ratio between the costs and benefits of weather services are currently being studied in several countries. In all countries, the results are positive in terms of the social productivity of weather services, according to the Finnish Meteorological Institute. The lowest reported ratio is 2 for some road weather services in the United States, which means that the benefits of the services are double the cost of producing them >> [more](#)

## Irish police conduct weekend crackdown on drink-driving across Dublin



As part of Ireland's Operation Artery, police officers have conducted a number of Super 'Mandatory Alcohol Testing' (MAT) checkpoints over this past weekend in the Dublin area. The emphasis of these checkpoints was to target intoxicated driving through the use of Mandatory Alcohol Testing for the duration of the MAT checkpoint. In addition to intoxicated driving, general road offences were also targeted, including use of >> [more](#)

## Police in Malta run 'morning after' alcohol checks



Traffic police officers from Malta were out early on Sunday morning to emphasise that drink-driving offences can be committed the morning after drinking.

### **WATCH THE VIDEO: safer driving in times of flood**



Prolonged heavy rain makes driving difficult – and many roads can be at risk of flooding. In the UK, the GEM Motoring Assist road safety charity has just compiled a video version of the most frequently asked questions in an attempt to help drivers stay safe when rain, spray and increasing levels of surface water threaten their journeys. [Watch now!](#)

***The next Bulletin from TISPOL comes to you on Tuesday 28 January***

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