



TISPOL Bulletin 29 May 2012

Dear Colleague,



Last week's TISPOL Council and Working Group meetings in Helsinki gave us the chance for frank discussions on the recent disappointing news regarding reductions of road fatalities at a European level.

TISPOL has been asked to give feedback to EU Transport Commissioner Siim Kallas on the current road safety situation in Europe and what we think might be the causes of the stalled reductions. As we know, Mr Kallas described the news as a 'wake-up call' for Europe. It is a call we must heed now if we are to have any hope of reaching the tough target of reducing annual road fatalities by 50% for the year 2020.

Of course, at TISPOL, we need to continue our work regarding the sharing of best practice. Our President, Pasi Kemppainen, reminded us in Helsinki that TISPOL is about **doing**, and not just **talking**. He pointed to our nine pan-European enforcement operations, and said it was crucial to conduct them in the best way possible.

But how far have we come in being able to establish why there has been this general slow-down in casualty reduction? We had interesting and helpful discussions in our Council and Working Group meetings. Representatives came up with interesting information about - for example - weather conditions in 2011. Some countries recorded bad figures during bad weather, while for other countries the bad weather brought the safest conditions with the fewest incidents.

Comparing 2011 with 2010, we know that 2010 was an extremely good year for many countries. But we cannot go back to 2009 levels: that is a step in the wrong direction, especially as we embrace the Vision Zero concept where one road death is one too many.

What needs to happen to bring these figures down? We have set strategies, but we now need to continue analysing the current situation, and evaluate our discussions in Helsinki so that we can present concrete proposals, perhaps refreshing part of our strategies, not only **talking** but **doing** the concrete things that will help us to make our contribution towards bringing about the improvements that are needed.

Ian Hamill (General Secretary)

Safety focus at Helsinki Seminar

Representatives from across Europe gathered for TISPOL's Road Safety Strategy Seminar, which took place on 23 and 24 May.

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Safe and sober: ETSC Seminar in Dublin

Raising the profile of drink-drive issues among employers in Ireland, the Seminar considered ways of dealing with the risks.

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Northern Ireland focus on pedestrians

A new hard-hitting road safety campaign has been launched in Northern Ireland with a focus on vulnerable pedestrians.

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TISPOL Conference: don't leave it too late!

Delegate bookings are brisk for our annual Conference taking place in Edinburgh on 2 and 3 October. Check out the details and book now.

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Scotland to lower drink-drive limit

The drink-drive limit in Scotland will be lowered "as a priority", the Scottish government has said, from 0.8% BAC to 0.5%.

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Who was the winner of our Spring 2012 quiz?

We received an excellent number of entries from people convinced they knew their European geography. The €50 winner was...

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