



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **TISPOL Bulletin 30 January 2014**
- **Results from December alcohol and drug enforcement operation**
- **Ireland: de-briefing from Christmas enforcement campaign**
- **Spain: all emergency vehicles soon to display blue lights**
- **Estonia: first ice road opens**
- **Hungary: how science is helping to keep American roads ice free**
- **New Zealand: horror phone crash footage released**

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TISPOL Bulletin 30 January 2014

MEMBERS OF TISPOL's Executive Committee met last week in Brussels, where there was an opportunity to make progress on the preparations for this years's Conference. The event takes place on Tuesday 30 September and Wednesday 1 October at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Manchester Airport. The theme for the Conference will be 'Road Safety in Europe - achieving the 2020 target'. **You can register your interest right now.** There is no obligation if you later find you cannot attend, but by registering, you will ensure you will be the first to know when the programme is formally published and bookings open.

We also had time to put the finishing touches to TISPOL's Annual Report for 2013. I am looking forward to sharing this with you very soon.

TISPOL looks forward to the start of the 'STRIDER' Project, which starts on 1 March 2014 and lasts for two years. STRIDER stands for **Solutions To Reduce serious Injury and Death on European Roads**. Further information in relation to STRIDER will be provided in future Bulletins.

I hope you will enjoy this Bulletin.

Ian Hamill, TISPOL General Secretary

Results from December alcohol and drug enforcement operation





IN CASE you missed the special announcement last week, TISPOL's alcohol and drug enforcement operation last month saw police conduct 1,141,058 roadside breath tests for alcohol, of which 15,305 were positive. Motorists were also checked for drugs in the operation, and 2,133 offences were detected.

Stopping drivers to check for alcohol and drug offences also provides police officers with the opportunity to make security checks. For example, during the week of this operation, officers also detected and dealt with offences connected with illegal immigration and human trafficking (107), possession of drugs (460), firearms (79) and stolen goods (82), as well as 1,803 other crimes >> [more](#)

Ireland: de-briefing from Christmas enforcement campaign



Assistant Commissioner John Twomey of Ireland's Garda National Traffic Bureau, announced that 22 people had been arrested on average each day for intoxicated driving. Specifically, 11 people had been arrested on Christmas Day (25 December) and 45 people arrested on New Years Day (1 January) for intoxicated driving.

A total of 44,090 people were breath tested at 8,138 Mandatory Alcohol Test (MAT) checkpoints. Seven dangerous driving incidents were detected per day and, tragically, 21 people lost their lives during the 36 days of the campaign.

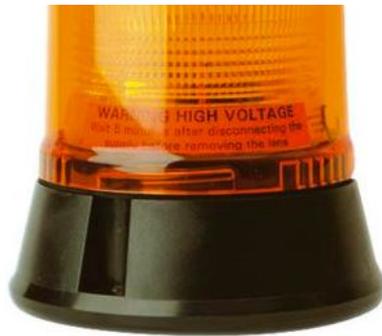
Mr Twomey said: "There was considerable Garda enforcement activity over the Christmas Campaign, as evidenced by over 44,000 being drivers breath tested, and over 800 drivers arrested for driving while intoxicated. It is totally unacceptable that some people continue to drink and drive."

It is very disappointing that there was an increase in road deaths in 2013 after so many successive years of reductions. An Garda Síochána, along with all partner stakeholders, is committed to making our roads as safe as possible. We will use all available resources, both enforcement and educational, to make this happen."

Spain: all emergency vehicles soon to display blue lights



Lawmakers in Spain have approved an amendment to the Traffic, Motor Vehicle and Road Safety act, which will ensure that all emergency vehicles will use blue



lights. Both fire engines and ambulances currently show orange lights - a privilege they share with other non-priority vehicles including rubbish trucks, cranes, diggers and breakdown vehicles. The amendment is subject to final approval, and experts believe the change will take between 18 months

and two years. It will bring Spain's emergency vehicles in line with most of the European Union.

Estonia: first ice road opens



The first official ice road was open to traffic in Estonia on Friday, according to information available from the national road authority's traffic information website. The track on the sea ice from the town of Haapsalu to Noarootsi peninsula on the opposite coast of the Bay of Haapsalu is open to vehicles weighing up to 2.5 tonnes. The track is 3.5 kilometres long.

A second, longer ice road is also expected to open shortly, connecting the port of Rohuküla on the mainland to the nearby island of Vormsi. This road has a length of 10.2 kilometres.

In all there are six ice roads chartered by Estonia's National Road Administration that are opened when ice conditions permit. Last winter all six roads were in operation for at least some time. This year, the cold weather has come later.

Hungary: how science is helping to keep American roads ice free

A brine solution discovered and developed in Hungary is helping to keep the roads of Tennessee free from ice and snow during the winter months. The liquid, which



contains potato juice, has been used alongside the snowploughs to keep roadways open and clear during winter. It's a byproduct of the distillation of vodka and was discovered in Hungary that the mixture did not freeze in low temperatures.



The potato juice is mixed with a traditional salt brine at varying ratios depending on the temperatures and weather conditions. "We also use it to treat when we've already got snow or ice on the ground, to help salt brines work at a lower temperature," a state representative said.

New Zealand: horror phone crash footage released



A horrific crash has been caught on [traffic video cameras](#) and published by New Zealand police in a hard-hitting new road safety campaign. A truck driver, distracted while using a mobile phone, clips a car from behind on Auckland's southern motorway, near Manurewa. The car is spun across two lanes and smashes into another car, which is sent flying off the road. Incredibly, no one was killed.

Police have uploaded the video as part of a safety campaign to show first-hand the devastating effects of drivers making poor decisions on the roads. Superintendent Carey Griffiths says the videos are a reminder for drivers to remain vigilant.

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