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- **More than 1.1 million drivers breath tested in Europe-wide police operation**
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- 15,305 alcohol offences and 2,133 drug offences recorded
- A record 31 TISPOL member countries took part
- More than 2,500 other crimes (drug possession, firearms, human trafficking, stolen goods) also detected during alcohol tests

A PAN EUROPEAN 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. The operation was organised by TISPOL in 31 countries between 9 and 15 December.

TISPOL President Koen Ricour said: "These results show that too many people are still prepared to risk driving after they have taken alcohol or drugs. Regardless of the legal limit, it's vital for everyone to know and accept that impairment starts with your very first drink and will reduce your ability to drive safely.

"We want to educate road users about the consequences of impairment, not just in the run-up to Christmas, but throughout the year. TISPOL is committed to a united approach, working with other stakeholders, governments and road safety organisations to provide effective deterrent messages. But we will also continue to seek out those drink drivers and drug drivers who ignore the warnings, and, in so doing, unnecessarily put their own lives and the lives of other

innocent road users at risk.”

Stopping drivers to check for alcohol and drug offences also provides police officers with the opportunity to make other appropriate safety and 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.

A full TISPOL Bulletin will follow next week

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