



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **TISPOL Bulletin, 10 February 2015**
- **European Transport Commissioner presents 2015 Road Safety Awards**
- **European Commission publishes latest road safety newsletter**
- **Campaigners welcome spread of new 30km/h zones across European cities**
- **UK experiences first year-on-year rise in road fatalities in more than three decades**
- **Germany: Minister warns drivers as road death rise is confirmed in North Rhine-Westphalia**
- **New legislation to tackle drug-driving sits at top of PACTS Summit agenda**
- **Former Olympic gold medallist denies texting before fatal crash**
- **Next Bulletin: Tuesday 24 February 2015**

TISPOL Bulletin, 10 February 2015

WELCOME TO this latest Bulletin, which I hope you will find stimulating and useful. We are putting the finishing touches to some of TISPOL's key 2015 events, and look forward to providing details in the very near future. Do ensure you reserve **Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 October** to attend (or indeed to exhibit at) the 2015 TISPOL Conference, taking place at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Manchester Airport. A full programme is just being finalised and we will look forward to sharing the details with you.

Members of two TISPOL Working Groups recently gathered in Neuss, Germany, for seminars and discussion. The Technology Group continued their appraisal of existing technologies used in the TISPOL countries in the domains of road safety and security. The Group has recently advised on best practice in the implementation of ANPR.

The Road Policing Working Group also gathered to focus on specific operations such as Trivium and Voyager, as well as to find ways to develop co-operation with partners such as Europol, TAPA and the International Road Transport Union (IRU).

Our next regular Bulletin will be published on Tuesday 24 February. Meanwhile, please stay in touch with your own news stories and pictures. Send them to media@tispol.org and we will make of course make good use of them.

Ruth Purdie (TISPOL General Secretary)

European Transport Commissioner presents 2015 Road Safety Awards





Last week five organisations from France, Portugal, the United Kingdom, Greece and Poland received the 2015 Excellence in Road Safety Award from Violeta Bulc, the EU's Commissioner for Transport, at a ceremony in Brussels. The winners were selected from some 2,200 signatories of the Road Safety Charter following an evaluation made by the European Commission.

Commissioner Bulc said: "Safe and smart road infrastructure will not be enough to stop all road deaths - but it can contribute to saving lives. These winners are an important reminder of why Europe is at the forefront of road safety. Their excellent work deserves recognition.

"However, improving safety is a shared responsibility. More than 26,000 people still die on our roads every year, and many more suffer horrific road traffic injuries. That is why I hope we can all work together to save thousands of lives. This year, we will review the rules for the training and qualification of professional drivers, and of the safety management principles for motorways and road infrastructure. There is also an on-going process to analyse serious road traffic injuries, in addition to the analysis of road deaths."

European Commission publishes latest road safety newsletter



The [latest newsletter](#) from the European Commission has just been published. Take a look and read more about Commissioner Violeta Bulc's new agenda for Transport in Europe.

Also in this edition there are details of a Commission-backed study defining measures for safer tyre use, and a look at the benefits of event data recorders.

Campaigners welcome spread of new 30km/h

zones across European cities



Milan is the latest European city to announce plans to introduce 30km/h zones, according to ETSC. The new limits will start to be introduced by March. The city's move reflects growing acceptance of the lower urban speed limits in cities and countries across Europe.

The changes follow a decision by the city council of Edinburgh, the Scottish capital, to extend 20 mph (32 km/h) zones to cover some 80% of the city's streets, including the entire city centre. Paris also announced plans last summer to

dramatically increase the number of lower-speed zones across the city.

But Spain's new general road law contains the boldest plan of any European country, forseeing 30 km/h limits on most city streets across the country, though implementation has been delayed for several months.

UK experiences first year-on-year rise in road fatalities in more than three decades



New figures show the UK's first year-on-year rise in road fatalities and casualties in more than 30 years.

There were 1,711 deaths, a 1% increase, and 24,360 killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties in the year ending September 2014, a 4% increase compared with the previous year.

The number of children killed or seriously injured rose by 3% over this period and for

the year ending September 2014, there were 192,910 reported road casualties of all severities, 5% higher than the 184,087 for the year ending September 2013.

Germany: Minister warns drivers as road death rise is confirmed in North Rhine-Westphalia

For the first time since 2011, there was an increase in the number of road deaths in the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia. A total of 520 people died in 2014, 41 or 8.6 per cent) more than in 2013.

"Excessive speed remains killer number one," Interior Minister Ralf Jäger said at the launch of the Traffic Statistics 2014 in Dusseldorf on Monday 9 February. In addition to the three main causes of collisions (speeding, drink driving and seat belt non-use), he said a fourth cause was the use of mobile phones when driving.

"Officers observed an increasing use of smart phones while driving," said Mr Jäger. "Even just quick look away from the road to the smart phone display means a life-threatening risk."

As well as road deaths, the number of serious injuries increased last year by more than 11 per cent to 13,490. Slight injuries rose by 3,273 (5.5 per cent) to 63,271.

New legislation to tackle drug-driving sits at top of PACTS Summit agenda



In March 2015 major new legislation to counter drug-driving will come into effect across Great Britain. The Home Office has already type approved the first drug screener and is testing evidential breath-test equipment for use at the roadside by police. Dealing effectively with drug-driving will be one of the lead topics at the PACTS Road Safety Summit taking place on 18 March in London.

Other topics include:

- How will the new drug laws and equipment be used?
- Are campaigns reaching women drivers?
- How can dangers of driver distraction be addressed?

[For more details, please click here](#)

Former Olympic gold medallist denies texting before fatal crash

A spokesperson for the former Olympic gold medallist Bruce Jenner

says he was not texting while driving when he was involved in a crash in Malibu, California, that left a woman dead. Mr Jenner has told officials he will provide his mobile phone records if requested by investigators looking into the cause of the four-vehicle crash on Pacific Coast Highway.

Next Bulletin: Tuesday 24 February 2015

IF YOU have any news stories, features, videos or pictures you would like us to include, please email media@tispol.org by Wednesday 18 February. Thank you.

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