



TISPOL BULLETIN NO 22/2011 1 November 2011

CHOOSE THE ITEMS THAT INTEREST YOU THIS TIME:

[Introduction from TISPOL General Secretary Ian Hamill](#)

[BRAND NEW VIDEO: Mike Brown from the US NHTSA](#)

[BRAND NEW VIDEO: Swiss speed control from Basel](#)

[President's Blog: Pasi Kempainen reflects on his first month 'in the job'](#)

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[NEW: Ad Hellemons answers six quick questions about his working day](#)

[Explaining our proposal to build a library of case studies next year](#)

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



WE ARE very keen to ensure that TISPOL's recently-published Strategy Document is put to good use and disseminated in all the right places. If you have not had sight of a copy, please note that you can download yours from the website. We are also very happy to provide a finished version in your own language. All you need to do is send us the translated version, then we can create a PDF with all the same images that appear on the English language version. We

believe we should be able to overcome any issues with non-English fonts.

We have been editing more of the videos we recorded at the Conference in Manchester, and I was particularly interested to hear the comments from Mike Brown of the United States National Highway Transportation Safety Administration, who gave such a good presentation of US safety developments at our Conference.

On a lighter note, we start a new section of the Bulletin in this edition. **'Six Quick Questions'** puts TISPOL Director Ad Hellemons on the spot for a few moments, as he tells us about his working day, the projects he is working on and even what his journey to work was like. We will profile a different person in every edition until further notice. If you could spare a moment to answer the same questions, we would be very pleased to publish your answers in a forthcoming edition.

Lastly from me, we are in the process of putting together our next newsletter, which will be available in print and online by the middle of December. If you have any articles or photographs you would like us to consider for inclusion in this edition, please email media@tispol.org as soon as possible.

Ian Hamill

[WATCH THE VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH MIKE](#)



[BROWN](#)

[WATCH THE VIDEO RECORDED LAST WEEK FROM AN EVENING SPEED CONTROL IN BASEL,](#)



[SWITZERLAND](#)

PRESIDENT'S BLOG



PASI KEMPPAINEN REFLECTS ON HIS FIRST MONTH

My first month has gone really quickly. During this month, a lot has happened and there are many irons in the fire. But before going to details I want to express my gratitude and give big thanks to my predecessor Roar S. Larsen, who served as TISPOL President and led TISPOL activities during 2010-2011. It was a pleasure and honour for me to serve as a 1st vice President next to him. Our year together gave me an opportunity to learn and see from close up just how the TISPOL Presidency can be conducted in an effective way. It also made things easier for me to continue his good work, because I have been a part of this work now for a long time. Roar did not save himself from travelling or working for TISPOL issues, and this is also my dedication during the Finnish Presidency.

After the TISPOL Conference and Council meeting at the end of September, where the Presidency was handed over from Norway to... [\(the full blog is contained on the TISPOL website\)](#)

NEWS UPDATE



RISE IN GERMAN ROAD FATALITIES

In August 2011, 380 people were killed in collisions on German roads. As further reported by the Federal Statistical Office, that was an increase of 80 people or 27% on August 2010. Thus the number of people killed increased nearly to the August 2009 level (386) after it had markedly declined in August 2010 (-22%).

More people died in accidents on the roads in nine federal states, in comparison to the previous year. Number-wise the increase was especially high in Lower Saxony (+ 27 persons or 90 %), in Bavaria (+ 18 persons or 32 %) and in North Rhine-Westphalia (+ 15 persons or 36 %). The number of persons killed or seriously or slightly injured in collision rose by 4.3 % in August to 36,600 in comparison to 2010.

On a broader scale, 2,546 people died on the roads between January and August 2011, an increase of 147 (6.1%) on 2010. There was also a rise by 4.0% where people were injured in accidents (253,900).



POLISH OFFICERS DETAIN DRINK DRIVER AND FIVE PASSENGERS AFTER ARMED EXCHANGE

Scenes from an American action film occurred during one night last week in the Polish city of Plock, according to police reports. A Skoda

driver, who wanted to avoid a police control, drove away from police through the city's streets, pushing other cars off the road. He also tried to ram one of the patrols involved in the chase and managed to hit the car at full speed. The pursuit ended after shots were fired into the Skoda's tyres.

In the car, officers found five passengers as well as the driver. They also discovered drugs, while checks revealed that the driver was supposed to be serving a long ban for a previous drink driving offence, and would not have his licence returned until the year 2025.

As a result, five adults were taken into custody. The sixth person, a girl aged 16, was detained separately.

Poland's Council member, Rafal Kozlowski, said: "Since the beginning of 2011, Polish police officers have discovered and disqualified more than 150,000 drink drivers. This is an increase of 10% over the same period last year and shows our consistency in the fight against drink drivers."



GOTTHARD TUNNEL – DRIVERS ARE STILL TAKING RISKS

ON THE 10th anniversary of the Gotthard Road Tunnel disaster last week, TISPOL published a small selection of images to show that drivers are still taking unnecessary risks as they go through the Tunnel.

The images show vehicles overtaking (the Gotthard Road Tunnel has only one lane in each direction), performing U-turns, carrying dangerous loads and even stopping in the Tunnel. There are also images of trucks and coaches, which have experienced difficulty during the Tunnel journey, either by overheating or jackknifing.

Comments Damian Meier, chief of traffic police in the canton of Uri and member of TISPOL's Operational Group: "Our priority is to make the Tunnel a safer, more secure environment. However, a further seven people have lost their lives in the Gotthard Tunnel since the fire 10 years ago. The most recent fatality was just three weeks ago, when a motorcyclist crashed into the Tunnel wall. We try to identify and remove as many dangerous vehicles as possible before they enter the Tunnel."

The Tunnel fire took place on 24 October 2001, when two trucks collided. In all, 11 people lost their lives and 128 others were injured.

Today, a number of measures are used by the Swiss police to improve the safety of the 17,000 vehicles that use the Tunnel each day. These include:

- Applying an interval feed-in system that allows no more than three trucks per minute to enter the Tunnel.
- Enforcing a minimum 150-metre separation distance between trucks in the Tunnel
- Requiring every truck approaching the Tunnel from the north side is directed through the purpose-built HGV Centre in Erstfeld

(canton of Uri), where random inspections are made of drivers, vehicles and cargoes.

- An annual rescue simulation exercise is carried out in the Tunnel. Joining police for this are crews from the Gotthard Fire Brigade and local emergency medical teams.

Damian Meier concludes: "The confined environment of a tunnel means that accidents and fires can have dramatic and devastating consequences. In addition, the potential disruption of the transport system following a fire will of course increase these consequences and can cause severe disturbances in the economy of a whole region."



BULGARIANS CHOOSE THEIR TRAFFIC POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR IN EXCITING CONTEST

The 19th Bulgarian National Championship "Traffic Police Officer of the Year-2011" was held recently in Smolyan. The competition has a long tradition in Bulgaria and it takes place every year with the participation of the best police officers from the country. This year 58 young police officers were involved in the competition. They had to demonstrate their skills in shooting (practical and theoretical test), specialized police training, first aid, motorcycle and car driving.

The winner of the competition who was named Traffic Police officer of the Year is Latchezar Bliznakov, police officer in "Piloting and Escort" Unit from The Police Headquarters in Sofia with six years' experience in the Traffic Police Service.

Latchezar Bliznakov likes his job because of the expertise required to ride a motorcycle to the required standard. The winner believes that the good knowledge of the Law and professionalism are the qualities that each officer must have.

The good preparation and skills of the police officer are essential parts of the effective work aiming to improve road safety and reduce the casualties on the road.

During the competition one of the most exciting rounds was the driving skills section, carried out on a special track in front of an audience.



SCOTTISH ROAD DEATHS FALL AGAIN

THERE WERE 208 deaths on Scotland's roads in 2010, a four per cent drop over 2009, when 216 people died. The figure shows a 36 per cent drop in deaths since 2000 and is lowest figure since records began.

A total of 1,964 serious injuries were reported in 2010 (14 per cent fewer than in 2009) with 13,334 injuries of all severity. Four children died on Scotland's roads in 2010, one fewer than in 2009.

SIX QUICK QUESTIONS:



TISPOL Director Ad Hellemons reveals his working agenda one day last week

What was your journey to work like today?

Easy, I drove the 10 miles from my home to my office on small roads through the woods. Very relaxed.

What engagements are in your diary?

Today I am working in the office all day, preparing a number of documents for new EU projects. So all day behind the computer. Not my favourite, but also this work has to be done.

Explain some of the bigger issues giving you concern at the moment, and how you are tackling them?

Concerning road safety we seem to get a certain level of control over speeding, drink-driving and driving without seat belts in Europe. Without being over-enthusiastic we see the good developments in relation to the fatalities in Europe. However, I am a bit worried that in the near future new "risk categories" of road users will not show good figures. For instance drivers under the influence of drugs and motor bikers. We see negative developments in relation to these. I have the idea that we do not know yet how to deal with this and that political decision makers are happy with the present good figures and are not yet aware of what is coming. Also the increasing crime along the roads is something that is on my mind. Also here we are just starting to find good answers and the police is not always paying enough attention to this phenomenon.

Tell us about any recent news in your department?

The 26 police forces of the Netherlands are now in the process of merging into one national police force. That gives a lot of extra work and there is also the usual emotion related to a reorganisation.

Who was the last person you spoke to on the telephone? What was discussed?

That was Willem Schewe. We were discussing the control operation on buses we have planned for next spring

Finally, what's for your lunch today?

Not much. I ate too much during the weekend, so today I had a small breakfast, but no lunch.

REMINDER: WE WANT YOUR CASE STUDIES

AS PART of our plan to include everyone in our communications plans, we are soon to launch a programme in which we will be compiling road safety case studies. We will be showcasing these on the website and in more wide-ranging publicity efforts, and we hope to collect as

wide an assortment of topics as possible. In the coming weeks, we will draw up some design templates and also create case studies from various items that have already been given to us.

So- you will be hearing from us in a short while, but if you have any good ideas immediately, please don't hesitate to let us know. Just email media@tispol.org.

NEXT BULLETIN:

The next TISPOL Bulletin will be available on Tuesday 1 November 2011.