



TISPOL BULLETIN NO 02/2012

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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



JUST A FEW days ago, I received the final results from the December alcohol and drug operation. It was very encouraging to see that more than one million breath tests were carried out, and particularly good to record the participation of 28 countries in the operation. If anything can make a big impact towards the further reduction of fatalities and serious injuries on Europe's roads, then it is this willingness to work together and to co-operate to make our roads safer. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this operation.

There is still a great deal to be done on the subject of drink-driving and drug-driving, but it is good to hear specific examples of worthwhile initiatives, such as the story from Hungary which appears further down in this Bulletin.

I will be in Edinburgh for a meeting of TISPOL's Executive this week. I am looking forward to our meeting in the Scottish capital city, and also of course looking forward to the TISPOL Conference that will take place

there on 2 and 3 October this year. I am delighted to see significant levels of interest, both from potential delegates and exhibitors. Do visit www.tispol.org and add your name to the list of those interested.

There's no commitment at this stage. However, we hope that once you have seen the Conference programme you will be keen to ensure you are present.

Best wishes,

Ian Hamill

LATEST NEWS

DECEMBER A&D OPERATION: MORE THAN ONE MILLION BREATH TESTS

TISPOL's alcohol and drug operation last month saw police conduct 1,025,482 roadside breath tests, of which 13,588 were positive. Motorists were also checked for drugs in the operation, which was organised in 28 countries between 12 and 18 December.

TISPOL President Pasi Kempainen said: "The co-operation of a record number of European countries in this action is a firm endorsement of how seriously police take the issues of drink- and drug-driving.

"The results demonstrate the effectiveness of our enforcement work, but we also want to ensure that road users understand the dangers of alcohol and drugs. In particular, motorists need to be more aware of the use of prescribed drugs and the effect they can have on their driving. By the use of education and enforcement, we can greatly reduce the number of people willing to get behind the wheel after consuming alcohol or taking drugs, whether prescribed or recreational, legal or illegal.

"We are committed to a united approach, working with other road safety 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."

UK: Coroner describes drink-driver's actions as 'sheer lunacy'

A HIGH-SPEED collision which left four people dead has been described by a coroner as the worst he has dealt with in his 35-year career. Joanne Martin was three times over the UK drink-drive limit, and driving at more than double the 30mph speed limit, when she crashed into an oncoming car, killing herself and three other people.

The 40-year-old woman's 'sheer lunacy' caused what coroner Robin Balmain called 'a senseless loss of life'.

'If anybody has any doubts about the consequences of drink-driving, they can learn lessons from what happened here,' he told an inquest at Smethwick in the West Midlands. 'Having thought back over 35

years, I have to say that this is the worst road traffic collision I have ever had the misfortune to listen to.'

Miss Martin died in the crash involving her Citroen Saxo and a Ford Fiesta in June, 2011. Her 11 year-old daughter was rescued alive from the wreckage of the cars, along with three others. However, another passenger in the Citroen, as well as the Fiesta driver and a passenger, all died. The coroner ruled they had been unlawfully killed.

NETHERLANDS: Four Arrested in Eindhoven for Cargo Theft and Receiving Stolen Goods

The project team "Cargo Theft" of the South Netherlands region (BRZN) arrested two men and two women suspected of cargo thefts, burglaries, car thefts and reception of stolen goods. The arrests took place in Eindhoven. The four suspects are now in police custody for further investigation.

The two men from Eindhoven, both aged 24, are suspected of involvement in several cargo theft activities, car thefts and burglaries committed in the past few months. Police believe they are also responsible for committing several thefts and burglaries at 10 supermarkets and a pharmacy, and are thought to mainly target cigarettes, perfumes and electronics.

The criminals are thought to have used a stolen car during the commission of their crimes, specifically a BMW, which was stolen on November 18th in Volkel and was seized by the police late in November when the vehicle became involved in a collision and its occupants fled.

The two women from Eindhoven were arrested for suspicion of receiving and selling stolen goods.

As part of the investigation, four homes in Eindhoven were searched. Computers, electronics, and perfumes, plus several thousand Euros in cash were confiscated and taken away for further investigation. The project team worked with 15 cargo theft inspectors in the investigation. Investigators from the National Police (KLPD) supported the team in this case. A total of 70 people were involved in the operation.

SPECIAL REPORT: Hungary: student artists bring successful drink-drive initiative to life

In November 2011, the Accident Prevention Committee of the Pest County Police HQ launched a ***Don't drink and drive!*** Campaign, in the course of which, 430 drivers were tested by breathalyser. None of the tested drivers proved to have consumed alcohol (in Hungary there is zero tolerance), so all of them were offered a can of alcohol-free beer, another gift and awareness raising leaflets.

Unfortunately, the statistics show that 10% of collisions involving personal injuries, and about 20% of all fatalities, still

What engagements are in your diary?

0900 meeting with my four inspectors for a discussion on how we best cover a forthcoming TISPOL operation. The new assistant to the road Safety Minister will be calling in for a chat around 1100 and I am giving a talk to a freight safety group at the Institute of Transport Managers at 1400.

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

In line with many other countries, we are concerned at the levels of drug driving. There's a lot of consultation happening, as there needs to be a change in the law to allow us to make use of new detection equipment. We have studied what happened in Belgium with interest, and will look at the Norwegian changes, too.

Tell us about any recent news in your department?

We took delivery of six new Volvo V70 patrol vehicles, all with ANPR and other equipment. We also undertook a very successful series of speed controls at key points around our cities last week. In all, more than 450 penalties were issued. The best thing about this was the supportive media coverage we obtained.

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

The inspector from our Motorcycle Special Escort Group needed the go-ahead to book eight officers for a three-day VIP visit next year.

Finally, what's for your lunch today?

I'll be lunching at the Institute of Transport Managers before giving my talk on future threats to road security, so I'm afraid I have no idea what will be on the menu.

SPECIAL REPORT: TAKING FATIGUE SERIOUSLY



*A great deal of research has been undertaken into understanding fatigue and the effects it can have on a driver. In the first of three items on the subject, Scottish marketing manager **Ian Collins** recounts the fatigue he experienced after the birth of his daughter Freya, and how it eventually led his doctor to order his driving licence to be suspended for safety reasons:*

Freya seemed to sleep for no more than 15 minutes at any time. Day or night, this appeared to be as long as she could last without waking up and screaming the place down.

My wife and I soldiered on as you do. After all, everyone who has been a new parent will be familiar with that spaced out feeling that

goes with extreme fatigue. So at first we didn't reckon we were any different from everyone else.

However, for me things went beyond the stage of being able to cope with – basically – no sleep night after night. I started dropping off involuntarily at the office for a few seconds during the middle of a meeting or while at my desk. Every road journey – even the short ones – felt like I was taking a big risk. At traffic lights, I could feel myself going, and on one motorway journey I experienced a two-second microsleep, which was frightening. I left the motorway at the next exit and parked up for a 30-minute sleep, just to try to reduce further risk.

I went to see my GP on an entirely different matter, but the fatigue issue came up and he immediately told me there was no way he could let me be out and about in a car while I was in this state. So I had my driving licence temporarily suspended.

Thankfully, Freya's screaming and wakefulness didn't last much longer and we adapted to a routine that allowed me and my wife to cope with whatever disruption she did cause. Consequently I was able to get my licence back and return to work, but I am extremely watchful these days of any creeping signs of fatigue – not just in me but in my wife and the team at work, too.

NEW VIDEO – CLICK TO WATCH

Watch a video from Kent Police in the UK about the use of a 'civilian' truck for officers to record distracted drivers

Officers are using a covert Tractor Unit to video in-cab distractions that cause collisions.

During a two week operation, they detected 181 offences and issued £11,000 in roadside fines.

[Watch the excellent video now!](#)

NEXT BULLETIN

The next Bulletin will be issued on Tuesday 7 February