



TISPOL BULLETIN NO 03/2012

7 February 2012

Click to be taken straight to any of the items listed below:

[Follow TISPOL on Twitter](#)

[President's blog](#)

[Listen to Pasi Kemppainen as he confronts the issue of rising road fatalities in Finland and elsewhere](#)

[Finnish Transport Minister and TISPOL President hold talks](#)

[Baltic States police chiefs meet to consider information exchange](#)

[New developments in road weather warnings](#)

[Six quick questions: one TISPOL Council member describes his working day](#)

[Fatigue Part Two: characteristics of a fatigue-related crash](#)

[Watch our brand new video, showcasing a heat-sensitive device for testing truck brakes](#)

[Who won €50 in our pre-Christmas quiz? Find out now!](#)

FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



THE HUGE drop in temperatures across most of Europe in the past 10 days has brought challenging conditions for police officers and rescue workers. It has been very sad to hear in the news that more than 260 people, many of them homeless, have died because of the extreme cold. Here are just some of the reports:

- Officials in Serbia said around 60,000 people throughout the country remain cut off by the snow. Seven people have died

so far and one is missing, while 23 people have been rescued in the past 24 hours, according to a Serbian emergency police official.

- In Croatia, authorities in a strip along the Adriatic coast declared emergency measures and urged the army's help in clearing up a rare snowfall.
- In Montenegro, rescuers reached a minibus with 11 passengers that was trapped for several hours by an avalanche in the Tara River canyon. They were later evacuated by boat.
- In Austria, temperatures in Salzburg hovered around 7 degrees Fahrenheit (-14 Celsius) on Saturday, and a technical problem at a power plant left 10,000 households without heating on Saturday.
- Germany recorded the coldest night of the year, with the thermometer plunging to -16 Fahrenheit (-27 Celsius) in the southern town of Oberstdorf, according to the German Weather Service.
- The tough winter weather also has hit cities in southern Europe such as Rome, where 20 cm of snow fell in the city centre, closing the Colosseum and the Forum.
- In parts of Northern Italy, homeowners had to dig themselves out from more than two metres of snow.

We hope that conditions will improve soon, and that the difficulties experienced by so many people will lessen as the temperatures recover.



The TISPOL website has been amended to include our Twitter feed, and I hope you will take a moment to sign up to it. You will find it to be a useful way of finding out from us whenever there is anything new to report, such as a new story on the website. It's important that we build up our network of followers, so please encourage all your colleagues and contacts to follow TISPOL as well.

It's easy to follow us. Just [CLICK HERE](#) and then click the 'Follow' button and the job is done. If you are not registered for Twitter, it takes only a few moments.

As you will see, there is plenty going on within TISPOL. I hope you will enjoy this Bulletin.

Best wishes,

Ian Hamill

PRESIDENT'S BLOG:

latest words from Pasi Kempainen

I want to thank all TISPOL member states who took part in TISPOL's alcohol and drug operation in December 2011. Results were outstanding! During the operation traffic police officers conducted 1,025,482 roadside breath tests, of which more than 13,500 were positive. Motorists were also checked for drugs and nearly 1,400 were suspected of drug driving. This means that nearly two drivers were tested every second during the whole operation week. What is a big concern; around every 40 seconds, somebody was caught for driving under the influence over the legal limit. From these figures, we can see that together we can make a difference and give European drivers the clear impression that we are active and successful in tackling driving under the influence.

[LISTEN TO PASI](#) AS HE CONFRONTS THE ISSUE OF RISING ROAD FATALITIES IN FINLAND, AND READ HIS [FULL NEWLY-POSTED BLOG ENTRY](#)

LATEST NEWS

Finnish Transport Minister Merja Kyllönen and TISPOL President hold talks in Helsinki



TISPOL President Pasi Kempainen has held talks with the Finnish Minister of Transport, Mrs. Merja Kyllönen. Pasi says: "We discussed drink and drug driving issues and I was happy to hear her opinions to be in line with the TISPOL Alcohol & Drugs Policy document.

"I had a strong feeling about her commitment for Road Safety work, which is great. During the day, I also met senior advisor Kimmo Kiiski

from the Ministry of Transport and Communication, as well as Mrs Anna-Liisa Tarvainen the Managing Director of 'Liikenneturva' the Central Organisation for Traffic Safety in Finland."

More about those meetings will be announced shortly in TISPOL Bulletins and on the TISPOL website.

Baltic States police chiefs meet to consider information exchange



REPRESENTATIVES OF the road policing organisations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia met in Riga last week to consider the progress made by each country in casualty reduction. Also high on their agenda was the topic of sharing information on offenders identified by automatic enforcement cameras.

The meeting was opened by Latvia's State Police Public Order Police Chief, General Guntars Markitans (pictured in the front row, second from right), and supported by the region's three Traffic Police chiefs, Vineta Mistre (Latvia), Riho Tānak (Estonia) and Gintaras Aliksandravičius (Lithuania). A TISPOL representative was also in attendance, and took the opportunity to give a presentation on TISPOL's Action Plan for 2012.

"The issue of sharing information is of great importance," said Vineta Mistre, Chief of Latvian Traffic Police. "We know, for example, that a Latvian vehicle number plate was caught on a Lithuanian camera 49 times during 2011, and there is currently no way for our Lithuanian colleagues to obtain details of the vehicle owner. This is because by our national law and Lithuania's national law it is not allowed to give information about the vehicle's owner abroad. The same is also true in Estonia.

The meeting follows an initial conference on the subject which took place in Estonia in November. Agreement was reached last week between Latvia and Lithuania to establish a trial period, starting February, where the required information would be made available. Chief of Lithuanian Traffic Police, Gintaras Aliksandravičius, said: "Of the 150,000 fixed camera violations recorded in Lithuania during last year, only 80,000 could be processed because the other 70,000 were recorded by non-Lithuanian vehicles. We are happy to support the trial period with Latvia. We know that there will be different amounts of

information between our two countries, as Lithuania has a bigger population.

"I know that the former Benelux countries and Scandinavian countries have reciprocal agreements. I think the Baltic countries need something similar, because there is a lot of transit traffic through the countries. Plus, of course, we are expecting full European harmonisation on this issue when cross-border enforcement becomes operational," he said.

UK: Eighteen motorcyclists killed or injured a day

Provisional figures released by the UK government confirm that 1,690 motorcyclists were killed or seriously injured in July to September 2011. This means 18 motorcyclists were killed or seriously injured every day between July to September 2011 - an increase of two per cent compared to the same period in 2010 when 1,652 were killed or seriously injured.

While all casualties among car users have reduced by seven per cent, the figures for motorcyclists have remained stagnant. 5,630 motorcyclists were injured between July to September 2011, compared to 5,666 in the same period of the previous year (a 0.64 per cent decrease).

Parking violators get a break in Germany

German authorities are giving parking violators in one city an unexpected break by issuing tickets without fines. The tickets, put on carelessly parked cars in Potsdam, include a fine of 0 euros and the cheerful message "Glück gehabt!!!" (Lucky you!!!). The new approach is designed to admonish motorists without hitting them in the wallet. "The tickets serve as a warning to parking offenders," said a city spokeswoman. "They're issued when the driver isn't around. So they're given written notice when they'd ordinarily only get a verbal warning."

Potsdam, the state capital of Brandenburg just outside Berlin, earned around 1.2 million euros from parking fines in 2011, she said. Around 120,000 parking fines were issued last year.

SPECIAL REPORT: NEW DEVELOPMENT IN ROAD WEATHER WARNINGS



VTT Technical

Research Centre of Finland, Mobisoft Oy and the Finnish Meteorological Institute, with support from partners, have developed a communication system for drivers to inform them about weather and road conditions.

The purpose of the system is to prevent serious or fatal accidents. Its commercialisation will be advanced during the next couple of years.

When there is snow or ice on the road, the risk of an accident is increased by a factor of 4.1 compared to normal conditions, according to research conducted at the Tampere University of Technology. VTT and the Finnish Meteorological Institute, under the international WiSafeCar project and with support from partners, have developed a vehicle and traffic communication system aimed at improving traffic safety. This communication system was developed with Finland's challenging climate conditions in mind.

The system allows vehicles to transmit traffic and weather observations to a traffic service centre, where the data is analysed and conveyed to other vehicles on the road, together with information on road conditions. The system also alerts drivers in case of imminent danger of an accident due to slippery road.

Co-operative driving, where vehicles and intelligent transport systems communicate and change information with each other, is becoming more common; it is estimated that such systems will become a standard feature some time between 2014 and 2030. Development is brisk, particularly in Europe, the USA and Japan.

SIX MORE QUESTIONS

In this edition, we apologise to Marin Motoc, the TISPOL Council member for Romania, because the answers we published last time should not have been attributed to him.



How was your journey to work today?

Driving in Bucharest during the rush hour is not an easy task, so I make a habit of leaving home long before the city really wakes up. I enjoy my relaxed drive to work admiring the beauty of the city before the traffic builds up.

What engagements are in your diary?

There are quite a lot, but I will enumerate a few:

- Preparation of a major roadside operation, together with Bucharest Traffic Brigade in order to combat drink driving;
- A video conference with all the heads of Traffic Police Services from Romania's 41 counties. The aim is to analyse problems on the roads in the past month and to identify the best solutions to address the negative aspects;
- Working meeting with the TISPOL Group Operational representative, Mihai CALINOIU, to discuss future activities of the organisation.

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

Developing National Strategy for Road Safety 2011-2020. Although in recent years we have achieved progress in reducing the number of accidents and deaths on roads in Romania, I am aware that we still have a lot to do. We seek the most appropriate choices, considering the TISPOL strategy on road safety and security in the period 2012-2015, to reach even lower values for these indicators.

Tell us about any recent news in your department.

Changing the law on mandatory use of winter tyres. There are quite a few issues that need to be made clear to drivers, given that this is something completely new in Romania.

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

My wife. Because of a somewhat busy schedule, in the last few days we didn't see each other very much but spoke on the phone. She wanted to know if I had managed to eat something.

Finally, what's for your lunch today?

There is not exactly a real lunch. Some sandwiches and yogurt. I am not too happy with my weight and I am trying to get back to into an acceptable shape!

SPECIAL REPORT: CHARACTERISTICS OF A FATIGUE-RELATED CRASH

A typical crash related to sleepiness has the following characteristics:

- The problem occurs during late night/ early morning or mid afternoon.
- The crash is likely to be serious.
- A single vehicle leaves the roadway.
- The crash occurs on a high-speed road.
- The driver does not attempt to avoid a crash.
- The driver is alone in the vehicle.

Read more of the '[Drowsy Driving](#)' report from the USA's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ((NHTSA).

NEW VIDEO - [CLICK TO WATCH](#)



Come with us to a chilly motorway rest stop just north of Helsinki in Finland as we watch Finnish Police use a new thermal imaging device to check truck brakes. [WATCH NOW!](#)

PRE-CHRISTMAS QUIZ WINNER



In our last Bulletin of 2011, we ran a little quiz, and we are now delighted to announce that the winner was Robert Gifford, Executive Director of the UK's Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety (PACTS). Rob will collect the €50 prize shortly.

NEXT BULLETIN

The next Bulletin will be published on Tuesday 21 February