

TISPOL BULLETIN NO 10/2011

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FROM THE GENERAL SECRETARY



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last week lamented the tragedy of needless deaths and injuries from road accidents and exhorted the world to intensify efforts to minimise road crashes.

“With the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety, we have a roadmap. Our goal is to save five million lives between now and the year 2020,” said Mr Ban at a joint event in New York with the city’s mayor Michael Bloomberg to promote road safety.

“The plan focuses on the big risks: speeding, drinking and driving, and failing to use seatbelts, helmets and child restraints. It calls for better infrastructure. It also calls for innovation,” he added.

And so the first global Decade of Action for Road Safety was launched, on 11 May, in an effort to reduce a scourge that kills an estimated 1.3 million people every year and leaves millions of others

injured or permanently disabled.

Governments around the world have held public events and have unveiled national safety plans as they kick off the Decade of Action, which the UN's World Health Organization (WHO) hopes will provide the necessary spur for a united response to the problem.

Road accidents represent the ninth leading cause of death in the world today and are already the biggest killer of people aged between 15 and 29. Between 20 million and 50 million others receive non-fatal injuries every year. The problem is also worsening. By the end of this decade, the number of deaths is projected to reach 1.9 million per year.

TISPOL welcomes the start of the Decade of Action, especially because of the high profile position it has allowed road safety to occupy in the past few days. It is my earnest hope that the need for ongoing action will continue to be recognised and that the excellent momentum generated by the launch of the decade will be maintained.

I hope you will find this Bulletin useful and informative.

Ian Hamill

LATEST NEWS

FRANCE INTRODUCES TOUGH NEW MEASURES AS ROAD DEATHS RISE

Tougher road safety measures are being introduced to cut road deaths and are aimed at speeding motorists, drink drivers and motorcyclists. In all, 18 measures are being introduced. They include:

- a ban on radar detectors
- the end of signs giving advance warning of speed controls (and the published maps of control sites)
- speeding at more than 50kph above the limit is punishable with jail

The measures follow four months of increasing numbers of deaths on the roads with 331 dead in January (up from 273 in 2010), 273 in February (254), 308 in March (300) and 355 in April (296).

[Full story](#)

FINNISH SCHOOL BUS DRIVER 'SIX TIMES OVER DRINK-DRIVE LIMIT'

A Finnish school bus driver has been caught driving at more than six times the legal drink drive limit. The man was transporting four children on a school journey when he was stopped by police. The legal drink-drive limit in Finland, as in most other European countries, is 0.5 BAC. The bus driver gave a reading of 3.06 BAC, more than six times above the limit.

A police spokesperson said the man would be charged with aggravated drink driving and would have his driving licence withdrawn. This charge can be made on a driver with an alcohol level of 1.2 BAC or more.

[Full story](#)

UK ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR ON-THE-SPOT TRAFFIC FINES

Police in England, Wales and Scotland will get powers to fine careless drivers on the spot, rather than taking them to court, as part of a government strategy to make Britain's roads safer. Ministers say motorists who tailgate, undertake or cut others up often go unpunished and that introducing instant penalties would be more efficient.

[Full story](#)

FRENCH GENDARMES CONFRONT POLISH MOTORWAY HITCH-HIKERS

Gendarmes working on the A36 autoroute in France were required to deal with a group of student motorway pedestrians at the beginning of May. The Gendarmes spotted several pedestrians on the A36 Motorway, wearing blue T-shirts with the inscription: "Auto stop race Barcelona". It turned out to be Polish students who were involved in a hitch-hiking race and trying to get to Barcelona from Wroclaw, using only this means of transport. Gendarmerie spokesperson Patrice Ganzin said afterwards, "Walking on or by the motorway is, of course, a very dangerous practice and it is completely forbidden to hitchhike on French motorways. Obviously these students were taken off the A36 and dealt with."

[Full story](#)

TISPOL CONFERENCE: 27/28 SEPTEMBER

A reminder of the TISPOL Conference, taking place in Manchester at the end of September. Book and pay for **your 2011 Conference** place now. Bookings can be made now via the TISPOL website. So, do check in to the website and get your booking made and paid for early. The programme is looking very interesting.

RESEARCH: DON'T RIDE WITH A DRINK DRIVER

Research from Finland shows that, of all victims of alcohol-related road accidents, only 8 per cent are killed elsewhere than in the drink driver's vehicle.

[Full report](#)

A GOOD READ



TISPOL President Roar S Larsen recommends you take a look online at [Vision Zero International](#) magazine. The latest 84 page edition is available online.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION REMINDER

Here's a reminder that you could win **€250** in our 'European Enforcement Photograph of the Year' competition, which is open to receive your entries and will remain open until September. We are looking for the photograph that, in the opinion of the judges, best reflects the work of TISPOL in 2011. The judges will make their decision by late September and will award the prize at this year's TISPOL Conference, taking place in Manchester on 27 and 28 September. The winning photograph, along with a selection of runner-up photographs, will be displayed at the Conference and will form a key part of TISPOL's communication resources in the future.

You can enter as many photographs as you like, but only one at a time. They must be your original work. They should be high resolution JPEG images, good enough to be reproduced in print as well as on web pages.

Please send your entry/entries to media@tispol.org

Entries are welcome from anybody. Good luck and we look forward to receiving your entry or entries!

TWO VIDEOS TO WATCH

ETSC – Global Decade introduction

The ETSC has produced a video to mark the beginning of the UN Global Decade of Action for Road Safety.

[Watch now](#)

Blue Light Aware

The UK-based road safety charity GEM Motoring Assist is just about to launch a five-minute video, 'Blue Light Aware', which gives advice to motorists on how best to help an emergency services driver on a 'blue light' run. The video has been made for GEM by driver education specialist Drive Smarter, with additional support from Volvo.

This video will be available by Thursday 19 May at the latest, so do check back to watch it!

Watch now

DETAILS OF THE UK NATIONAL BLUE LIGHT USERS CONFERENCE



The 14th Annual National Blue Light Users Conference, which brings together those who manage and train drivers in our blue light services, will be taking place on 31st August and 1st September at Hinckley Island Hotel in Leicestershire. The Conference is organised by AIRSO (Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers) and you can find more about the event on www.airso.org.uk/bluelight_users.htm You can also download an application form from this site. The organisers would welcome participation from outside of the United Kingdom. In addition to those who actually manage and train drivers, the conference would also be of interest to those involved in health and safety issues relating to driving and those involved in casualty reduction. For further information contact Graham Feest on (+44) 1903 506095.

NEXT BULLETIN:

The next TISPOL Bulletin will be available on Tuesday 31 May 2011, and will contain a link to TISPOL's new 24-page newsletter.