Safe Road Management Policies: European framework and policy context

Tom Antonissen, Director of Policy
European Union Road Federation (ERF)
International Road Federation (IRF)
Brussels Programme Centre

ERF is a signatory of the European Road Safety Charter, associating civil society to Europe’s goal of halving the number of road deaths by 2010
“The Voice of the European Road”

ERF is a platform for dialogue and research at the service of the European road community.

ERF initiates and supports scientific studies and publications aimed at improving the knowledge of the European road system.

ERF gives the road community a consistent and united voice in all transport areas:

- Socio-economic contribution of roads to society
- Sustainable road construction
- Infrastructure financing
- Intelligent roads
- Safer road engineering
ERF is the Brussels Programme Centre of the International Road Federation (IRF), founded in 1948 to offer an international forum to public and private road sector organisations.

Three regional programme centres (Washington D.C, Geneva and Brussels) serving over 350 Members in 90 countries.

An unparalleled range of services:
- Networking and business development
- Education and training
- Conferences and seminars
"The Voice of the European Road"

A strong network of road sector organisations present in all European Countries:

- National road associations
- Road equipment manufacturers
- Operators and contractors
- Road research laboratories
- Road user organisations

...representing the interests of thousands of organisations working for a safe, sustainable and interoperable road network at the service of Europe’s citizens.
The Problem
Road safety levels in Europe remain preoccupying

- EU-25 2006: 38,400 deaths, 1 700 000 road injuries and countless “near misses” every year (cost: €160 billion!)
- General trend shows improvement in EU-15 but stabilisation in 10 new Member States (12,000 deaths)
- Performance varies considerably from one Member State to another (ratio 1:3, even 1:5)
- A structurally ageing population with lower cognitive abilities (night vision, etc.) and a higher fatality risk in the event of an accident.

Road Safety remains a major societal issue in Europe!
The European Context (2/4)

Evolution of fatalities in EU-25 (2006)

Evolution 1990 - 2010
EU fatalities

Source: - CARE (EU road accidents database)
- National data

2010 objective: 25,000 lives to save
EU-25 fatalities
The European Context (3/4)

Situation in each EU Country
# fatalities / population (2006)
## The European Context (4/4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Performance</th>
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<tr>
<td>BE</td>
<td>-12%</td>
<td>CZ</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>-14%</td>
<td>EE</td>
<td>-15%</td>
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<td>DE</td>
<td>-16%</td>
<td>CY</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<td>EL</td>
<td>-14%</td>
<td>LV</td>
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<td>-32%</td>
<td>HU</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>IE</td>
<td>-8%</td>
<td>MT</td>
<td>-19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>-16%</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<td>LU</td>
<td>-30%</td>
<td>SI</td>
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<td>NL</td>
<td>-19%</td>
<td>SK</td>
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<tr>
<td>AT</td>
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<td>PT</td>
<td>-23%</td>
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<td>FI</td>
<td>-13%</td>
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<td>SE</td>
<td>-2%</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>-6%</td>
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### Old & New Member States performances (2005)
Understanding the figures (1/4)

✓ Old “solve the driver” approach

✓ But:
  ➢ with comparable speed & blood alcohol limits, road death ratio between European countries is 1:4,
  ➢ Single lane roads are up to four times as dangerous as dual carriageways,
  ➢ a third of road deaths are attributable to single-vehicle crashes with a roadside obstacle

⇒ Official accident statistics significantly understate the importance of the road as a contributing factor
Understanding the figures (2/4)

**Case study**

The driver
Young, inexperienced, driving fast

The car
Worn rear tires

The road
Wet, no protective devices
Understanding the figures (3/4)

How can accidents be avoided?

- Acting on the driver
  - More training, graduate licenses

- Acting on the car
  - Speed limitation devices, improved stability programmes

- Acting on the road
  - Passive safety devices, porous road surfacing, driver information (VMS, road signs, etc.)

Driving mistakes will remain a fact of life

Necessary, but important phase-in time

Immediate effect!
Understanding the figures (4/4)

What we still find on European roads:

- Unprotected trees and street furniture
- Poorly placed pedestrian crossings
- Road surface defects
- Obstructed driver visibility
- Inadequate protective devices
- Road signs and markings that are invisible in poor visibility conditions
- No consideration for vulnerable road users
Our vision to improve **safety** on European roads:

- **Integrated approach** towards the three “pillars” of road safety: driver behaviour, vehicle, infrastructure
- Setting up quantitative targets (EC)
- **Cooperation** between all public bodies involved in road safety issues
- **Regular “best-practice”** exchange amongst road experts

*SUNFLOWER Project (UK, Sweden, Netherlands), SWOV, 2002*
The ERF Perspective (2/2)

Our vision to improve infrastructure safety on European roads:

- Statistical Data Analysis
- Safe Road Engineering
- "Black Spot" Management
- Audits & Inspections
- Reactive Strategy
- Preventive Strategy
- Accompanying Actions
- C/B Analysis
- Maintenance
- Research
- Training
A shared responsibility (1/4)

The EU has legal obligations arising from the Treaty...

- Article 71: measures to improve road safety integrated within Common Transport Policy.
- Article 152: public health and consumer protection issues.
- Article 155: technical harmonisation and interoperability of the Trans European Network (financing through Cohesion Fund).

- The 2003 RSAP (European Commission’s Road Safety Action Programme) translates these obligations into an action plan ...
  ...but shares the overall responsibility for road safety
A shared responsibility (2/4)

An example of “Subsidiarity”

<table>
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<th>EU</th>
<th>National level</th>
<th>Regional level</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- rules on mandatory fitting in vehicles</td>
<td>- translates into national legislation</td>
<td>- enforces seatbelt use</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- establishes performance standards</td>
<td>- organises seatbelt enforcement</td>
<td>- surveys compliance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- monitors legal implementation</td>
<td>- defines objectives and national campaigns</td>
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Seat belt usage
A shared responsibility (3/4)

...and must therefore rely on a panel of measures:

- **Direct legislation** (e.g. Retrofitting of Blind Spot Mirrors, Digital Tachographs,...)
- **Data collection**, comparison and analysis of best practices (Road Safety Observatory, CARE Database “Community database on Accidents on the Roads in Europe”,...)
- **Standardisation** (CEN/TC226 and TC227)
- **Financial support to R&D activities** (RISER, RANKERS,...)
- **Consumer** information programmes (EuroNCAP, EuroRAP,...)
- **Fiscal incentives** (Linking EU funds to Preliminary Impact Assessments,...)

- **Subsidiarity** remains a convenient excuse for some MS
A shared responsibility (4/4)

The RSAP proposes actions on:

- **Driver Behaviour**: better driver education & enhanced traffic law enforcement
- **Vehicle Safety**: technical inspections, active & passive safety measures, use of Galileo
- **Road Infrastructure**:
  Sharing of Best Practices, elimination of Black Spots, New approach to Road Infrastructure Safety Management!

-> October 2006: *Proposal for a Directive on Road Infrastructure Safety Management*
The European Road Safety Charter (1/2)

- Created within the framework of the RSAP
- To implement the “shared responsibility” and provide “ownership” to all levels (Road user / Private sector / Region / Member State / EU)
- **Objective:** To reduce the number of road deaths with 50% by 2010
  (Reference: in 2001, 50,000 deaths in EU25)
- In 2006: 38,400 deaths (-23.2% in 5 years), predicted 32,500 by 2010...
The European Road Safety Charter (2/2)

- **Who?** “Everyone in authority, with decision-making powers, or acting in an economic, social or representative function”
  - e.g. (local) authorities, companies, automobile clubs, associations, schools, media,... >600!
- **What?** To comply with universal principles & undertake to implement concrete actions
- **ERF is signatory** – Commitments:
  - “Engineering Safer Roads”, Infrastructure Safety Forum, publications of Brochures and Guidelines
The ERF/IRF on Road Safety

- Signatory to EU Road Safety Charter
- Engineering Safer Roads (Bi-monthly newsletter)
- Road Safety Programme (4 Technical WGs)
- Infrastructure Safety Forum
- Publications (Designing and keeping roadsides safe, “Better road infrastructure, saving your life”)
- TAIEX Training Workshops
- EU Research Projects (EURO-AUDITS, RANKERS, RISER, ROBUST, Guidelines to Black Spot Management…)

All publications are available at [http://www.irfnet.eu/](http://www.irfnet.eu/)
Services to the Members:
Programmes & Working Groups

Road Safety Programme
- WG on Road Restraint Systems
- WG on Road Markings
- WG on Vertical Signs
- WG on Tunnel Safety

Infrastructure Financing Programme
- WG on Infrastructure Financing/PPPs
- WG on Road User Charging

Intelligent Roads Programme
- GIROADS Club

Environment Programme
- WG on Road Traffic Noise
- WG on Sustainable Road Construction
Services to the Members: Events & Conferences

European Road Congress
- 2nd ERC (Brussels, 6-8 Nov 2006)
- 1st ERC (Lisbon, 24-26 Nov 2004)

Infrastructure Safety Forum
- The Safety Benefits of Harmonised Road Signs and Markings (10 January 2007)
- A Directive on Road Infrastructure Safety Management (23 October 2006)
- Passive safety that matters (30 May 2006)
- Innovative approaches in Safe Road Management (28 February 2006)

CEEC regional workshops (with TAIEX - EC)
- Vilnius (Lithuania) - 23/24 October 2007
- Budapest (Hungary) - 27/28 June 2007
- Bucharest (Romania) - 28/29 March 2007
- Skopje (fYRMacedonia) - 30/31 January 2007
- Ankara (Turkey) - 20 September 2006
Services to the Members: Setting the road research agenda

- Best practices
- Product specific
- Infrastructure Safety
- Urban mobility
- Mobility Management

“Safe & smart mobility”

Guidelines to BSM
- RISER
- RANKERS
- EURO-AUDITS
- SAFEWAY
- ROBUST
- eParking
- OPTIPARK
- ADvantis
- GIROADS
- MENTORE

Advisory Panels: ERTRAC
Services to the Members: Our information services

Web site: www.irfnet.eu

Publications
- Sustainable Roads
- Safety on Motorway Workzones
- Socio-Economic Benefits of Roads
- TEN-T Financing (coming)

Newsletters
- Policy & Action
- Voice of the European Road
- Engineering Safer Roads
- Intelligent Roads
Agenda – TAIEX Workshop

• European Framework & Policy Context
• Road Safety Situation in Turkey
• Legal Requirements on Tunnel Safety & Road Infrastructure Safety
• Safe Road Management Session (3 speakers)
• Passive Safety: EN 1317 Standard
• Active Safety Session: Road Markings & Road Signalling; Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)
• Financing of Road Infrastructure
• Interactive Session on Implementation
• Technical Site Visit: Fatih Bridge
Useful Links

- http://taiex.cec.eu.int/
- http://www.erso.eu/
- http://www.eurorap.org
Thank You For Your Attention

European Union Road Federation (ERF)

Avenue Louise, 113
B-1050 Brussels (Belgium)
Tel: + (32) 2 644 58 77
Fax: + (32) 2 647 59 34
E-mail: info@erf.be
http://www.irfnet.eu