



MINISTERS WARNED WEAKENING OF VEHICLE SAFETY REGULATIONS COULD LEAD TO UP TO 1300 EXTRA ROAD DEATHS A YEAR

ETSC, together with a coalition of organisations, has written to all 27 EU Transport Ministers and Industry Ministers expressing concern that vital new EU vehicle safety standards, set to come into force from 2022, could be set for a severe blow.

The European Union agreed last year that all new cars, vans, lorries and buses should be fitted as standard with a range of new vehicle safety technologies, starting in 2022. The measures are predicted to prevent 25,000 road deaths within fifteen years, according to analysis carried out for the European Commission.

Inappropriate speed is still one of the biggest killers on EU roads. Around a third of fatal collisions involve at least one party driving at an inappropriate speed, with cyclists and pedestrians being particularly susceptible.

[More information](#)



30KM/H LIMITS SET TO SPREAD IN 2021

The city of Paris will extend 30 km/h limits to cover the entire city from 2021, and has launched a public consultation on the measure. The move puts into effect an election promise of the mayor Anne Hidalgo. Paris has had 30 km/h limits covering a wide area for several years, but it will now be the default speed everywhere except the ring road and pedestrianised areas. Grenoble, Lille and Nantes have made similar moves to 30 km/h default limits in recent years.

[More information](#)



AUSTRIA AND GERMANY SET TO INCREASE SPEEDING FINES

Both Austria and Germany are in the process of changing traffic laws to increase penalties for speeding.

The Austrian transport minister said last month that fines for speeders could be doubled and confiscation of vehicles could become an option in extreme cases, such as when those sanctioned continue driving after a ban. Driving bans will also be doubled in length in some cases.

Meanwhile political negotiations over reforms to traffic laws in Germany are ongoing and are likely to include a doubling of fines for speeding in urban areas, as well new legal protections for pop-up cycle lanes that have been subject to legal challenges by the far-right AfD party.

[More information](#)



COLOMBIA REQUESTS MEMBERSHIP IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT FORUM

The Republic of Colombia has officially requested to become a full member of the International Transport Forum (ITF), the world's only global body with a mandate for all transport modes.

Colombia's President Iván Duque Márquez made the announcement at an official event at the Presidential seat Casa de Nariño in Bogotá on 27 November 2020 in the presence of Minister of Transport Ángela Orozco Gomez and ITF Secretary-General Young Tae Kim (attending remotely). An official request by the Republic of Colombia has been sent to the ITF, which is affiliated to the Paris-based OECD, through diplomatic channels.

President Duque's announcement was made at a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding between Colombia and the ITF that will see Latin America's third-most populous country become part in the ITF's permanent working group on road safety, known as IRTAD.

[More information](#)



ITF WORK ON ROAD SAFETY

International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group (IRTAD)

Over 1.3 million people are killed on the world's roads every year, and tens of millions are seriously injured. Improving road safety in ITF's 60 member countries and beyond is a priority for ITF.

Through its permanent working group on road safety, known as IRTAD, ITF aims to advance international knowledge about road safety and contribute to reduce the number of traffic casualties. With 80 members and observers from more than 40 countries, IRTAD has become a central force in the promotion of international co-operation on road crash data and its analysis. It has been hailed as a “model of a multi-country effort” and its crash data described as “simply the best in the world”.

[More information](#)



THE FIA COMMUNITY HONOURS THE MEMORY OF ROAD TRAFFIC VICTIMS

On Sunday 15 November, the FIA Community supported the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims (WDoR) on the theme ‘Remember, Support, Act’.

Celebrated by the European Federation of Road Traffic Victims (FEVR) since 1995 and endorsed by the United Nations since 2005, WDoR is a major advocacy day for road traffic injury prevention. It commemorates the many millions killed and injured on the world's roads, as well as the families and friends who are tragically affected by road crashes.

This year, for its 25th edition, WDoR aims to remember those killed or seriously injured on the roads, acknowledge the great work of the emergency services, draw attention to ways road traffic victims and their families can be better supported post-crash, and promote evidence-based actions to prevent further road traffic deaths and injuries.

[More information](#)



GOVERNMENT TAKES HISTORIC STEP TOWARDS NET-ZERO WITH END OF SALE OF NEW PETROL AND DIESEL CARS BY 2030

Sales of new petrol and diesel cars to end in the UK by 2030.

The UK has taken another historic step on the road to ending its contribution to climate change while boosting jobs in the process, as the Prime Minister, Transport Secretary and Business Secretary announced the end of the sale of new petrol and diesel cars in the UK by 2030. This will put the UK on course to be the fastest G7 country to decarbonise cars and vans. Between 2030 and 2035, new cars and vans can be sold if they have the capability to drive a significant distance with zero emissions (for example, plug-in hybrids or full hybrids), and this will be defined through consultation.

[More information](#)



EURO NCAP LAUNCHES RATINGS FOR ADVANCED DRIVER ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS

Euro NCAP has launched a new rating scheme for driver assistance systems fitted to the latest generation of vehicles, including advanced cruise control and lane keeping assistance. Some manufacturers have been criticised for using inappropriate marketing, weak driver monitoring or poor safety backup.

Representatives from the automotive industry have proposed, at the UNECE in Geneva, to regulate Level 2 hands-off lane keeping assistance systems, which would aim to keep the vehicle in the driving lane without requiring drivers to keep their hands on the steering wheel.

[More information](#)

ROAD SAFETY IN THE MEDIA

From France, a Bicycle Ambulance



French eco-mobility company Ecox Enterprises is launching the Emergency Bike, a two-wheeled ambulance that allows first responders to slice through city traffic. Designed to deal with Parisian rush hour, the electric-powered cargo bike features an insulated box for carrying medical supplies and is kitted out with the lights and sirens of an ambulance.

[More information](#)

Road fatalities: Which EU countries are the most dangerous?

As Eastern European countries have the highest number of road fatalities per capita across the European Union, data reveals, but the overall number of deaths across the bloc has more than halved over the past two decades.

Slightly more than 25,000 people lost their lives on EU roads last year, according to figures from the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC). Back in 2001, more than 55,000 were killed in traffic accidents.

At the time, Baltic countries were especially dangerous with Lithuania and Latvia registering 236 and 202 deaths per million inhabitants respectively — the highest in the bloc. But 17 years on, the pair have made the best progress in the EU on cutting deaths.

The big Latvian improvement was not enough to prevent it from being one of the EU's worst last year, with 77 deaths per million inhabitants — the same as in Hungary.

Only Bulgaria (87 deaths per million inhabitants) and the EU's deadliest for road fatalities, Romania (96), are worse.

Still, despite them having the most dangerous roads, Romania and Bulgaria have also reduced the number of road deaths by 23.8% and 39.6% respectively, enough to slip under the 100 deaths per million inhabitants threshold.

[More information](#)

Reduction in passenger road deaths 'not matched by cyclists and pedestrians'

Report says UK one of only three EU nations where pedestrian casualties rose in last decade.

Significant reductions in road casualties for vehicle occupants across Europe in the last decade have not been matched by equivalent safety gains for pedestrians and cyclists, a report has shown, with the UK performing particularly badly in some areas.

Across the EU, pedestrian deaths fell by 19% over the period. However, the report by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) found that the UK was one of only three of the 28 EU nations where pedestrian casualties increased Seattle.

[More information](#)

Swearing, tailgating and horn-happy: what do European drivers really get up to?

Southern Europeans are more likely to display uncivil behaviour when behind the wheel than their northern neighbours, a survey has found, and the French and Greeks are particularly colourful when it comes to language.

In a poll carried out in 11 European Union member states by Ipsos for the Vinci Motorway Foundation, 70 per cent of respondents in France and Greece admitted they insult other drivers — far higher than the 55 per cent average.

When it comes to using the horn, Spaniards, Greeks and Italians were the least shy of all countries polled with the latter two also among the three nationalities — with Poland — most likely to step out of their vehicle to talk it out with another driver.

Meanwhile, overtaking another car on the motorway from the wrong side was mostly a Dutch, Spanish and British affair.

One thing all Europeans appear to have in common, however, is that they mostly see themselves as good drivers and others as less so.

[More information](#)

Friends get around Ireland's covid restrictions by buying €9.99 tickets and boozing at Dublin Airport without boarding the flight

A group of friends have avoided Ireland's harsh lockdown rules by buying a €9.99 flight from Dublin to meet up at the airport and enjoy a few pints together. The four pals never boarded their flight but bypassed security and settled in at the airport bar.

Dublin Airport remains an essential service and is allowed to stay open despite the Level 5 lockdown restrictions in Ireland.

The spokesman warned that people who break these rules could face action that could end up with a court appearance.

[More information](#)