

Road Safety Priorities for the EU – March 2021

22,660 annual EU road deaths (2019)

Annual economic cost of road crashes: EUR 280 billion / 2% of GDP

Target: Cut road deaths and serious injuries by half by 2030

A new EU road safety agency:

- oversee an EU-wide in-depth crash investigation programme – essential to safe rollout of automated vehicles.

Favour less dangerous modes:

- Specific targets to reduce deaths among pedestrians and cyclists;
- Encourage Member States to adopt 30 km/h in all areas with high numbers of cyclists and pedestrians.

Urban mobility:

- Use of EU funds for 30 km/h limits, speed enforcement and active travel infrastructure.
- Fund a Safer City Label scheme.
- EU guidelines on safe use of micromobility vehicles and minimum vehicle safety standards;

Speed:

- EU speed management guidelines based on Safe System approach including self-explaining road infrastructure, vehicles that help drivers comply, effective enforcement and recommended speed limits.

Enforcement:

- Encourage increased and well-publicised enforcement and use EU funds to assist with tackling the main risk factors of speeding, drink and drug driving, distraction and failure to wear a seatbelt.
- Strengthen cross-border enforcement to help governments follow-up on offences;
- Enable cross-border enforcement of driving bans and penalty points.

Driver licensing:

- Require graduated driver licensing for young and novice drivers;
- Require driver education on assisting and automated driving systems.

Vehicle safety:

- Ensure the Commission proposes strong technical standards for Intelligent Speed Assistance, HGV direct vision and other technologies required under the 2019 General Safety Regulation (GSR);
- Update GSR requirements in 2025 to reflect rapid technological progress;
- Require maximum speed limiters for all new vehicles.

Automated driving:

- Develop a comprehensive EU regulatory framework for the safe deployment of vehicles with automated driving systems on board;
- Review technical requirements for currently-available systems in order to address risks to road safety, such as driver overreliance, distraction and mode confusion ;
- Mandate independent investigation of crashes coordinated by an EU agency.

Fitness to drive, alcohol and drugs:

- Propose a directive on drink driving, setting a zero-tolerance level for all drivers;
- Mandate alcohol interlocks for repeat offenders, high level first-time offenders and all professional drivers;
- Introduce an EU zero tolerance system for illicit psychoactive drugs.

Read our full briefing at:

<http://etsc.eu/ep-briefing-2021>

Contact : Ellen Townsend, Policy Director, et@etsc.eu