

## **MOVING AHEAD WITH ROAD SAFETY: FULL SUPPORT FROM THE MEMBER STATES TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE eSAFETY FORUM**

**A High-Level Meeting on eSafety was organised on 27 September 2004, to discuss a set of recommendations of the eSafety Forum on three priority topics: In-vehicle Emergency Call (eCall), Real-Time Traffic and Travel Information (RTTI) and Human-Machine Interaction (HMI). The meeting gave its full support to the recommendations that aim to full scale implementation of pan-European eCall, covering 80 % of all journeys in Europe with adequate RTTI services, and taking steps to ensure safe and efficient HMI of in-vehicle safety and information systems, including the so called nomadic systems.**

eSafety is a joint industry - public sector initiative which aims to reduce the number of road accidents by using new Information and Communication Technologies. The objective of the eSafety Forum, established in 2003, is to promote and monitor the implementation of the recommendations on eSafety and to support the development, deployment and use of the intelligent vehicle safety systems. The HL meeting on 27 September was attended by 80 High-Level persons representing 18 Member States, industry associations, the eSafety Forum Working Groups and the European Commission.

The Member States regarded the eSafety initiative as a crucially important element in the general framework for improving road safety in Europe and fully supported the activities of the eSafety Forum and its stakeholders. They committed to increasing their national efforts, and also to extending their participation in the various eSafety Forum bodies.

eCall was recognized as a priority item due to its significant socio-economic benefits, and the Member States committed to proceed with plans for its implementation based on the location-enhanced E112 pan-European emergency number. The importance of RTTI was stressed, and the Member States supported the general aim of covering 80% of all journeys with RTTI services by extending the current RDS/TMC services to more Member States and into urban areas. Concerning HMI, the importance of urgently solving the issue of Nomadic Systems was stressed, and the Member States welcomed the proposal of the Commission to produce in early 2005 a new version of the European Statement of Principles.

The RTD in eSafety technologies is supported by the IST Programme. The next steps include a High-Level Meeting with industry, and the 2nd Commission Communication on eSafety, planned to be adopted before the end of the year. Further meetings with Member States' experts are also planned.