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## eSafety highlighted at June ITS Congress in Hannover

The 5th European Congress and Exhibition on ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems and Services) took place in Hannover, Germany on 1-3 June 2005 under the theme "ITS at Crossroads of European Transport". The Congress, which attracted some 1000 visitors, featured a number of Strategy and Special Sessions, many enjoying a high-level presence from the European Commission. The numerous Technical Sessions provided an overview of the state-of-the-art in ITS research in Europe and abroad. A number of concurrent workshops were also organised at the Congress, including the fourth eSafety Forum Plenary Meeting. eSafety was a prominent subject discussed in many sessions and events.

The Congress was opened by Dr Manfred Stolpe, Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Housing in Germany. In his opening remarks, Dr Stolpe noted that eSafety was a key priority for Germany and Europe and stressed that an area such as RTTI (Real Time Traffic Information) is one solution that should be fully exploited in the coming years.



### Strategy Session on eSafety

The 1 June Strategy Session "eSafety Technologies and Applications", chaired by Mr André Vits of EC DG INFSO, provided an overview of the strength and width of the European activities in the development, testing and evaluation of eSafety technologies and applications. The session also focused on intelligent vehicle safety systems and co-operative vehicle/infrastructure systems. Mr Fabrizio Minarini of EC DG INFSO presented project results of the IST Programme under the 5th Framework Programme as well as introduced new 6th Framework Programme projects. Professor Risto Kulmala, Chair of the eSafety Implementation Road



The EC's André Vits (centre) shows German Federal Minister of Transport Dr Manfred Stolpe the EC stand at the Hannover Exhibition

Map Working Group, was on hand to introduce a prioritised road map for eSafety implementation. Other speakers in this well-attended session came from the automotive industry, equipment suppliers and the public sector.

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## 4th eSafety Forum Plenary Meeting

After its very successful high-level meeting in February, the eSafety Forum came back in full strength for its fourth Plenary Meeting, held concurrent to the Hannover Congress on 2 June.

Moderated by Mr Frans de Brüne of EC DG INFSO, the plenary meeting focused on eSafety deployment and attracted over 120 participants – making it the best-attended Forum meeting ever!

It included high-level opening remarks by Mr Wolfgang Hahn of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing, who stressed the importance of eCall, HMI and RTTI for Germany. This was followed by a status report from the eScope eSafety Observatory and chairpersons of several eSafety Forum Working Groups.

In the meeting's panel discussion on how to accelerate eSafety deployment, Forum members agreed that focus



should now shift away from technology and towards ensuring deployment – and involving the consumer. According to Mr Johan Grill, Chairman of the eSafety Forum's User Outreach Working Group, communications needs to be stepped up in the first instance and tax incentives could also help improve consumer take-up of safety features. Mr Jean-Louis Marsaud, Secretary General of the *Comité Européen des Assurances*, announced that the insurance industry was ready to investigate the use of incentives for eSafety. Another major issue mentioned at the meeting concerned investment from Member States. ●

## eScope Observers Group discuss eSafety deployment and user outreach

The second eScope Observers Group, made up of national eSafety experts and industry representatives, met in Helsinki, Finland, 14 April 2005. Around 30 eSafety experts from 15 different countries participated in this event to discuss the progress of eSafety deployment and research in Europe.



The discussions made clear that there is a large difference in the status of national eSafety progress. For example, some countries have already taken

deployment steps for eCall, whereas others have yet to launch a strategy in this area. The outcome also demonstrated that it is important to avoid weak links in the deployment effort, since an eSafety solution like eCall needs to be available across Europe. Thus, it is up to the eSafety Forum to ensure that all Member States receive the necessary information and support to create strategies and actions for the deployment of Europe-wide solutions.

The main conclusions and recommendations of the Observers Group were:

- It is imperative that more effort must be put on user outreach in the Member States.
- Successful cooperation with insurance companies as established in some Member States has created promising business cases for implementation of certain eSafety appli-

cations like black boxes and speed alert applications. There should be increased cooperation with the insurance sector on a European scale.



- The financial incentives for safety applications in vehicles introduced by some Member States could be a driving force in deployment support.
- Clear cooperation between EC-supported activities related to the Road Safety Action Plan is essential to avoid overlapping work and create synergy between the different fora and working groups.
- Support is needed for the creation of national eSafety programmes and action plans.
- National studies that have shown positive cost-benefit results for eSafety implementation should be used in other Member States to support national decision-making processes. The Implementation Road Map Working Group can play an important role in providing the necessary information and data. ●

# Highlights from the eSafety Forum Working Groups

## eCall / eCall Driving Group

### 15 April 2005 - eCall Expert Meeting in Helsinki, Finland

The objective of the eCall expert meetings is to share experience on a technical level regarding eCall requirements and specifications. The eCall expert meeting in Helsinki focused on best practice for early eCall adoption, and included presentations from Finland, Netherlands, Sweden and UK about their eCall implementation plans. It was chaired by Mrs Rosalie Zobel, Director of the EC DG INFSO's Directorate G Components and Systems and hosted by the Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications. It attracted over 85 eCall experts representing different stakeholders and companies – including members of the eSafety Forum's eCall Driving Group, whose meeting in Helsinki was held on the previous day (see below).

Along with Mrs Zobel, Mr Perttu Puro, Secretary of State, Finnish Ministry of Transport and Communications, and Mrs Ritva Viljanen, Secretary General, Finnish Ministry of the Interior, opened the meeting. Mr André Vits, EC DG INFSO and the two Co-chairs of the eCall Driving Group, ACEA Director of Regulatory Affairs Wolfgang Reinhardt and ERTICO Director of Development Michael Nielsen, provided an overview of all eCall aspects.

### 14 April 2005 - eCall Driving Group Meeting in Helsinki, Finland

The eCall Driving Group met to define tasks and allocate responsibilities for 2005. The EC's Emilio Davila Gonzalez provided feedback from the eSafety Forum's High-Level meeting with the EU Member States in February. At this meeting, the Member States gave their support to the action plan regarding eCall implementation and to the aim of making eCall standard in all new vehicles by September 2009.

In Helsinki, it was decided that the European Commission should invite the insurance industry to a meeting in order to better involve it in eCall activities. Another discussion point with the insurance industry is the possibility of creating financial incentives for implementing eCall. The members of the eCall Driving Group – including its co-chairs Wolfgang Reinhardt, ACEA Director of Regulatory Affairs and ERTICO Director of Development Michael Nielsen – also took part in the eCall expert meeting held the next day (see above).

## RTTI Working Group

### 11 May - eSafety Expert Meeting on RTTI, Berlin, Germany

Following September 2004's high-level meeting and as recommended by the Member States, the Commission organised a topic meeting with Member State Public Authorities

in Berlin, Germany, 11 May 2005, hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing.

The aim of the meeting was to focus on the progress of RTTI (Real-Time Traffic and Travel Information) and summarise the results of the eSafety initiative. Technical experts, Commission representatives and representatives of the Member States gathered to review the status and recommendations of the Working Group, following an opening address from Roland Niggstich on behalf of State Secretary Dr Ralf Nagel. ERTICO's James Burgess, representing the TMC Forum, presented the current status of TMC roll-out and future developments, and presentations of TPEG and the AGORA advanced location referencing method were also given.

## User Outreach Working Group

The Group has analysed some consumer campaigns and experiences from suppliers, communications models and penetration patterns of some earlier technologies such as ESP (Electronic Stability Programme). It now recommends the establishment of a common media platform for eSafety, made up of all interested stakeholders to co-ordinate media, marketing and political issues. A pilot campaign could be organised as soon as the end of this year, which could benefit from user surveys such as the Eurobarometer. In addition, the Group has also recommended a study into the creation of a common eSafety "brand".

## RTD Working Group

The final results and recommendations of the Group were presented at the 2 June eSafety Forum Plenary Session in Hannover. The Group concluded that more work is needed in accidentology, human factors, interoperable co-operative systems, ITS services and some non-technical issues. It stressed the importance of an integrated approach, and proposed the establishment of a Joint Technology Initiative on Co-operative eSafety Systems as a vehicle for pushing forward the boundaries of the research. This proposal is in line with the current preparations of FP7 and could eventually evolve into the "Intelligent Car" flagship project of the Commission's i2010 strategy.

## Heavy Duty Vehicles Working Group

This Group also presented its findings at the 2 June eSafety Forum Plenary Meeting in Hannover, where it reviewed existing eSafety results and summarised them regarding the special needs of Heavy Duty Vehicles – including proposed safety approaches, special proposals for Heavy Vehicles, as well as non-electronic approaches.

The differences between passenger cars, vans and heavy-duty vehicles require special attention to ensure increased safety of heavy-duty vehicles.

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## eSafety Forum Working Groups

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In addition, due to the high mass of heavy-duty vehicles, avoiding accidents (primary safety, active safety) should be a higher priority than reducing their consequences (secondary safety, passive safety). The combination of both measures is seen to have the highest impact in reducing fatalities.

1) The broad market penetration of available or ready-to-market vehicle safety systems is hindered by a missing business case.

2) The current regulations for vehicle mass and dimensions hinder, if the load length should be kept – the introduction of an advanced passive safety system. Member States should therefore promote the market penetration of safety systems by granting incentives and

agreeing to a harmonised approach for additional lengths and weights for a passive safety system.

## Digital Maps Working Group

Having kicked off its activities in April 2005, the Group – co-chaired by Ad Bastiaansen and Yannis Moissidis – presented the role of Digital Maps in deploying eSafety at the Hannover eSafety Forum Plenary Meeting. The Group's first plenary meeting 1 July 2005 in Brussels has prepared it for its second plenary meeting slated for the end of September 2005. The final Digital Maps working group document will be presented at the Steering Committee meeting to be held on 5 November 2005 in San Francisco. ●

## eSafety Hannover highlights *continued from Page 1*

### Plenary Round Table

Mr Ken Ducatel, representing Ms Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media, was one of the two keynote speakers at the 3 June Plenary Round Table, "ITS Research Roadmap: Taking Full Advantage of Information and Communication Technologies". He introduced the new Commission strategy "i2010 – the European Information Society 2010", adopted by the Commission only two days before on 1 June. This strategy, part of the renewed Lisbon Agenda aiming at job creation and growth, is based on three pillars: the creation of a proper regulatory environment for the European Information Society 2010, investment in innovation and research, and inclusion and better public services.

Mr Ducatel stressed the importance of the automotive industry and the entire transport sector in this strategy,

noting that the automotive industry was the largest single investor in RTD in Europe. It was a key player especially in the strategy's third pillar, namely the inclusive information society. This is why the Commission, striving towards cleaner and safer transport, has included a flagship project in this area in its i2010 Communication: The Intelligent Car. This project will be defined in more detail in the future, with the aim of a 2007 launch. ●

## Keep track of the 28 eSafety Recommendations and all eSafety events!

# www.escope.info

eScope monitors the progress of the 28 eSafety Recommendations and follows the activities on the national and European levels for all defined priority areas. To consult the eSafety progress report – including background, status, activities, and planned actions – and a host of other pertinent eSafety information, be sure to regularly check the eScope website, [www.escope.info](http://www.escope.info).

In addition, you are encouraged to contact eScope with any news and information concerning the Recommendations so that we can add it to the website and keep everyone up-to-date. We also welcome news and information about your own eSafety-related events, so please keep us informed! Contact us at: [info@escope.info](mailto:info@escope.info)

### New eSafety Brochure!

A new, expanded second edition of the eSafety brochure was produced in June 2005. See the eScope website for more details.

