



Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Town and Country Planning

Paris, 13 October 2008

PRESS RELEASE

For better road safety in our towns: European Road Safety Day 2008

Today marks the second European road safety day. For this occasion, in collaboration with the French Presidency, the European Commission is organising a conference in Paris bringing together over 600 people around the theme of road safety in towns. Alongside Antonio Tajani, Vice President of the Commission in charge of Transport and Vice President Jacques Barrot, in charge of Justice, Freedom and Security, also participating will be Dominique Bussereau, French Secretary of State for Transport and Altero Matteoli, Italian Transport Minister.

“Two thirds of road accidents and a third of fatal accidents take place in urban areas. This was the motivation behind our decision to dedicate the second European day to road safety in our towns. This day is an excellent occasion to increase awareness of the phenomenon amongst European citizens”, declared Vice President Tajani, who has made road safety one of the priorities of his programme.

The Paris conference on road safety in urban areas will tackle three main themes: the needs of vulnerable users, such as pedestrians and bicyclists; improvements in our towns for better road safety, and improvements in citizen behaviour for a new culture of prevention.

The event aims to promote road safety improvements in towns through better dialogue between all road users in urban areas and between users and decision-makers. In addition to the discussions, around forty exhibitors will present the most important European initiatives and developments for reducing road danger.

Just like last year, several Member States are promoting the central event by organising national initiatives. Information about these events is available on the official website:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety/road_safety_days/index_2008_en.htm.

The first European road safety day adopted the theme of young drivers. Its symposium organised in Brussels offered young people space to share their experiences and demand better safety on European roads from institutions and road safety partners.

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