

Road Safety Declaration endorsed by Transport Ministers / representatives of the South East European Parties meeting in Ljubljana, on 25 April 2018.

Concerned that the high number of fatal and serious road traffic injuries is a major problem in our societies causing unacceptable human suffering and significant economic loss;

Stressing that the overwhelming majority of road traffic deaths and serious injuries are preventable and that more policy action should be directed to road fatalities and serious road traffic injuries;

Recognizing the right of all citizens to accessible and safe mobility and the importance of promoting sustainable modes of transport,

Acknowledging the sustained efforts of the European Union in enhancing road safety, and expressing the wish to follow its path;

Affirming our willingness to intensify national and regional action as well as European cooperation with a view to implement effective road safety policies and measures and to adopt a Vision Zero perspective for the future in order to reduce the number of killed and seriously injured on our roads;

Reaffirming that road safety is a shared responsibility, and that concrete and joint action is required by all: the Transport Community, national, regional and local authorities, industry and civil society, each in their areas of responsibility;

Hereby express our commitment to reduce the number of those killed or seriously injured on the roads, and more generally to strongly improve road safety across the South East European Parties, and call for the following:

Actions for strengthening road safety management

- Put road safety high on the political agenda and take steps to strengthen the coordinated planning and implementation of road safety policies in and between the South East European Parties, and the collaboration between governments, the civil society and the private sector;
- Set up a coordination committee responsible for road safety under the supervision of the competent Ministry of each of the South East European Parties;
- Set up in parallel a coordination mechanism between police forces and justice ensuring the full implementation and strict enforcement of road safety legislation at in each of the South East European Parties, including offences committed by non-resident drivers;

- Provide appropriate financial and technical support to the police forces of the South East European Parties, and foster cooperation between them across the Western Balkan region;
- Recognise that developing road safety strategies and action plans at the level of each of the Parties is an effective tool for better road safety management, and invite those not having yet done so to develop, implement and share information on their respective road safety plans and strategies;
- Adopt the Vision Zero perspective and the Safe System approach when developing road safety strategies and policies, with a view in particular to preventing severe crash outcomes when inevitable human errors on the roads occur;
- Commit to adopting aspirational targets for halving the number of fatal and serious road traffic injuries from 2020 to 2030, in line with the fatality and injury targets applied in the EU and at the UN level, and adopt the necessary complementary measures to reach these targets;
- Commit to improving the quality of systematic and consolidated data collection on road traffic deaths and serious road injuries in line with existing EU standards and definitions (CARE data model);
- Take steps to improve accident investigations and the subsequent data collection to identify areas of priority and the most effective road safety countermeasures;
- Ensure adequate funding of road safety policies and programmes, including cooperation and innovation in enforcement, accident investigation, information and awareness-raising and other dedicated road safety initiatives;

Actions to promote safer infrastructure

- Identify the most dangerous sections of the extended Trans-European road network to the Western Balkans, where most fatal and serious accidents happen;
- Apply the infrastructure safety management principles on the Trans-European road network, and in particular on its most dangerous sections through a combination of proper planning and safety assessment, design, building and maintenance of roads;
- Establish and enforce adequate speed limits supported by appropriate safety measures such as road signs, speed cameras, and other speed restricting mechanisms, to ensure the safety of all road users;

- Improve the safety of vulnerable road users, and in particular the safety of pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists by appropriate infrastructure design and speed management;
- Promote 30 km/h zones in urban and suburban areas with a high interaction of motorised and unprotected road users;

Actions to promote the protection of road users

- Develop and promote a region-wide road safety culture, based on commonly shared values as well as on the Safe System approach that emphasises the responsibility of all actors, including road users to be more aware of the risks they face and the risks they may pose to others on the roads;
- Enforce effective road safety measures to address unsafe behaviour on the roads, and in particular to prevent road users from speeding, drink and drug driving, failing to use seatbelts, child restraints, helmets and other protective equipment, or otherwise being impaired or distracted on the roads;
- Improve road users' behaviour by continued and effective education and training, focusing in particular on novice drivers, motorcycle riders and professional drivers, as well as by targeted information and awareness-raising campaigns;
- Develop specific strategies for the protection of vulnerable road users, and in particular young drivers, children and the elderly;
- Take measures to ensure effective post-collision care, early rehabilitation and social reintegration of road traffic victims;

Actions to promote the use of safer vehicles

- Improve the safety of vehicles to protect road users, and in particular vulnerable road users by adopting policies and measures in line with the EU standards;
- Ensure that all vehicles in use meet the EU standards on vehicle safety and roadworthiness testing;
- Promote the use of vehicles meeting the minimum standards for occupant and other road users protection equipped with seat belts, air bags and active safety systems such as anti-lock braking system (ABS) and electronic stability control (ESC);
- Promote the market access of vehicles equipped with advanced driver assistance technologies and new crash avoidance systems protecting vulnerable road users, including Intelligent Speed Assistance and Autonomous Emergency Braking;

- Promote the roll-out of cooperative intelligent transport systems across the Western Balkans region, ensuring that services and systems are compatible and interoperable with EU standards;

Actions to enhance cooperation and exchange of experience

- Develop well-connected, functioning and safe infrastructure networks which bring the South East European Parties closer to each other and to the EU as a whole;
- Mainstream road safety in new regional and trans-European road projects, particularly in those benefiting from EU financing or IFI support;
- Use the expertise and technical assistance of the European Union to support the investment decisions and the preparation of these new road projects;
- Enhance cooperation in vehicle safety between the South East European Parties and the EU by exchange of knowledge and experience in order to substantially improve road safety records;
- Take all measures within our remit to assist road safety partners working at different levels and to promote continued dialogue between the South East European Parties and the EU;
- Enhance cooperation between police forces, including exchange of data, for coordinated enforcement operations in the region; and exchange knowledge and experience with the European Traffic Police Network in order to effectively enforce traffic rules across borders;
- Mobilise all partners at national, regional and local levels to strengthen the focus on road safety and support the exchange of experience and best practices;
- Boost voluntary commitments to improve road safety, in particular by joining the European Road Safety Charter with the active involvement of civil society.