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PRESS RELEASE

PRELIMINARY DATA ON ROAD SAFETY IN EUROPE IN 2003

Improvement continues in the West Mixed progress in Central and Eastern European Countries Still worrying results in the CIS

Preliminary official data available from ECMT Member Countries reveal considerable divergence in the evolution of road safety in European countries in 2003. While road safety continues to improve seriously in Western European countries and seems to be moving towards a real progress of road fatalities in Central and Eastern Europe, in CIS countries, however, road safety indicators continue to deteriorate significantly.

In *Western Europe* the number of road traffic fatalities declined in 2002 by **6.3 %**, the best result recorded for the last 15 years. This important decrease was further strengthened in 2003 by drops in the number of injured (- 4.5 %) and in the number of accidents (- 3.7 %), thereby maintaining the favourable trend in place since 2001 for these two indicators.

In *Central and Eastern Europe* the number of fatalities decreased by **2.9 %** in 2003. This result puts those countries back on the promising trends of the years 2000 and 2001. Conversely the number of injuries and the number of accidents increased significantly, 2.4 % and 2.7 % respectively.

Once again the *Community of Independent States* was confronted in 2003 with an important rise of **6.5 %** in the number of people killed on the roads, reinforcing the already bad results of the previous year.

Behind these global figures lie significant variations from one country to another, as the following tables show:

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Western European countries	Number of deaths	Trends 2003/2002
Austria	931	-2.6%
Denmark	432	-6.7%
Finland	379	-8.7%
France	5 731	-20.9%
Germany	6 613	-3.4%
Greece	1 615	-4.7%
Iceland	22	-24.1%
Liechtenstein	5	--
Luxembourg	53	-14.5%
Malta	16	0.0%
Netherlands	1 028	+4.2%
Norway	280	-9.7%
Portugal	1 356	-7.7%
Spain	5 399	+1.0%
Sweden	529	-5.5%
Switzerland	546	+6.4%
United Kingdom	3 508	-2.0%
Turkey	3 966	-3.1%
Total	32 409	-6.3%

Central and Eastern European countries	Number of deaths	Trends 2003/2002
Albania	264	+5.6%
Bulgaria	960	+0.1%
Croatia	701	+11.8%
Czech Republic	1 447	+1.1%
Estonia	164	-26.8%
FYR Macedonia	118	-33.0%
Hungary	1 326	-7.2%
Latvia	493	-4.8%
Lithuania	709	+1.7%
Poland	5 640	-3.2%
Romania	2 235	-6.8%
Serbia & Montenegro	858	+1.3%
Slovak Republic	653	+4.3%
Slovenia	242	-9.7%
Total	15 810	-2.9%

CIS countries	Number of deaths	Trends 2003/2002
Azerbaijan	718	+11.8%
Belarus	1 763	+2.0%
Georgia	572	+11.1%
Moldova	425	+3.2%
Russian Federation	35 600	+6.6%
Total	39 078	+6.5%