

Press Release

Moscow, Paris, 19 November

“Russian Road Safety has Improved Significantly”

International Transport Forum Praises Russian Progress on Improved Road Safety and Urges Countries to Apply More Comprehensive Safe Systems.

“Russia has made considerable progress in reducing road deaths in recent years,” said Jack Short, the Secretary General of the International Transport Forum (ITF), praising the country’s efforts to significantly improve its road safety performance. Since the ITF’s 2006 review of road safety in Russia and the introduction of a new road safety policy, fatalities have decreased by 17%, despite a 24% increase in traffic. This represents 6 000 lives saved, an important achievement with major societal and economic benefits for the country. New inter-governmental structures are resulting in better coordination and enforcement has improved noticeably.

Mr. Short presented an update of the review of Russian road safety policy during the Conference. “Despite the progress made, there is more action needed,” Mr. Short added. Currently, road death rates in Russia are still five times higher than in countries with top performance in road safety. Strong political commitment, ambitious quantified targets and clear, result-oriented strategies are required. Targeted measures to increase seat belt wearing, reduce drunk driving and lower speed limits, as well as special programmes for young drivers and road engineering and vehicle improvements remain central to continue the excellent progress being made in Russia. Funding for road safety, in particular, needs to be protected in the economic downturn. “Finally, Russia also needs to improve its data analysis and strengthen research on the topic,” Mr. Short added.

At the occasion of the Moscow conference, the ITF also released a summary of Transport Ministers’ recommendations on road safety, made over the last 40 years (available online at: www.internationaltransportforum.org/Pub/pdf/09CDsr/index.pdf). Mr. Short said that these decisions underline the changing approach to road safety in the best performing countries, as these have moved from a narrow range of specific interventions to a more comprehensive strategy, the “safe system approach is the way forward for all countries,” he said, urging countries to adopt a safe system approach now.

The International Transport Forum is the leading global platform and meeting place for transport, logistics and mobility. It attracts key figures from government and politics, business and industry, research and civil society, coming together to discuss a transport topic of worldwide strategic importance. The involvement of more than 50 Ministers of Transport offers many direct links to policy-making and business at both national and international levels.

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