

# commission for **global road safety**

## **News Release**

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### **Lord Robertson to report on global road safety**

Lord Robertson of Port Ellen will lead an international Commission to investigate global road traffic safety and the action needed to reduce the 1.2 million deaths and 15 million serious injuries caused by road traffic crashes each year.

The British politician, a former NATO Secretary General and UK Defence Secretary, will lead the Commission which includes a member from each of the Group of Eight (G8) countries. Among the participants are the leading economist Dr John Llewellyn, senior French medic Professor Gerard Saillant, former F1 World Champion Michael Schumacher; and the President of the Bridgestone Corporation, Shigeo Watanabe.

The Commission for Global Road Safety, which will report in June 2006, will aim to put global road safety on the development agenda of the G8 countries. The Commission will propose an action plan to tackle the hidden epidemic which kills 3000 people, including 500 children, every day. More than 80% of these road deaths and injuries occur in developing countries, leading the United Nations General Assembly last October to call for concerted action by the international community.

Although road traffic injuries are the second leading cause of death worldwide (behind HIV/AIDS) for young men, and cost poor economies billions of dollars, there is very little funding available to developing countries for prevention. In the industrialised nations road deaths have fallen by more than half since the 1970s, as the result of safer roads, seat belt laws, drink driving enforcement and better vehicle design. In contrast, the developing economies of Africa, Latin America, and Asia are today experiencing rapid and steep increases in road casualties many of which are preventable. The Commission for Global Road Safety will examine how best to reverse this trend and prevent the further 65% increase in road traffic deaths and injuries predicted by the World Health Organisation by 2020 if no action is taken.

The report and recommendations will be published on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2006. Copies of the report will be sent to the G8 Heads of Government in advance of the 2006 G8 summit in St Petersburg, Russia, in July 2006. It will also be submitted to the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration as part of the preparation of the 2007 UN Global Road Safety Week. The Commission for Global Road Safety is an initiative of the FIA Foundation.

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## Note to Editors:

### 1. The Members of the Commission for Global Road Safety are:

Chairman: **Rt Hon. Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

- Canada: **Ms. Tayce Wakefield**, Chair, Global Road Safety Initiative; Executive Director of EU Affairs, General Motors;
- France: **Professor Gérard Saillant**, Doyen de Medecine, Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital, Paris;
- Germany: **Mr Michael Schumacher**, seven times Formula One World Champion;
- Italy: **Mr Rosario Alessi**, Chairman of the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society;
- Japan: **Mr Shigeo Watanabe**, President, Bridgestone Corporation;
- Russian Federation: **Dr Andrei Kortunov**, President, New Eurasia Foundation;
- United Kingdom: **Dr John Llewellyn**, Chief Global Economist, Lehman Brothers;
- United States: **Dr Mark Rosenberg**, Executive Director, Task Force for Child Survival and Development

The principal adviser to the Commission is **Kate McMahon**, formerly Divisional Manager of the Road Safety Strategy Division of the UK Department for Transport. The Commission will also be assisted by an international advisory group of road safety experts and practitioners. The secretary of the Commission is **David Ward**, Director General of the FIA Foundation

### 2. The Terms of Reference for the Commission for Global Road Safety are as follows:

- To review the human and economic cost of road traffic injuries worldwide
- To review the international policy framework for dealing with road safety and the response to UN General Assembly resolution A/60/5 and the Recommendations of the WHO/World Bank World Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention
- To examine the extent of international cooperation on road safety between industrialised countries;
- To examine the extent of international cooperation on road safety between the industrialised and developing countries and also countries in transition; to explore the potential role of development aid; technical assistance and governance to improve road safety in developing countries and countries in transition; and to explore the potential for integrating road safety into existing policy processes;
- To recommend institutional and practical measures that would improve international cooperation in road safety, encourage public and private partnerships, and recognition that road safety is a shared responsibility of all the stakeholders involved in road transport.

### **3. Lord Robertson of Port Ellen**

Rt Hon the Lord Robertson of Port Ellen KT, GCMG, hon FRSE, PC was Secretary General of NATO (1999-2003) and Defence Secretary of the United Kingdom (1997-1999). He was a member of the British House of Commons from 1978-1999 when he was elevated to the House of Lords.

In opposition he was a spokesman on Foreign Affairs, and in particular Europe. In 1995 he was elected to the Shadow Cabinet and was responsible for drawing up the plans for the Scottish Parliament. He is a Knight of the Order of the Thistle, one of HM the Queen's personal decorations and the most senior for Scots. He also holds the Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St Michael and St George. In 2003 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honour and holds high honours from 20 countries and honorary doctorates from 10 Universities.

He was the founding Chairman of the Seatbelt Survivors Club, an organisation founded to campaign for compulsory seat belts in cars. He was a founder member of the All Party Parliamentary Action Committee on Transport Safety.

### **4. The FIA Foundation for the Automobile & Society**

The FIA Foundation is the secretariat and initiator of the Commission for Global Road Safety. Established in 2002 as a registered charity in the UK, the FIA Foundation is a leader in global road safety campaigns and research, working closely with the World Health Organisation, the World Bank and the UN and other international partners to promote road safety. The Foundation is a member of the UN Road Safety Collaboration, the Global Road Safety Partnership and a major contributor to the recently established World Bank Global Road Safety Facility.

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The website for the Commission for Global Road Safety at:

[www.commissionforglobalroadsafety.org](http://www.commissionforglobalroadsafety.org) will be live from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February.

# Briefing: The Hidden Epidemic of Global Road Traffic Injuries

## Worldwide toll of road crashes

- 1.2 million people worldwide are estimated to be killed each year on the roads – more than 3000 people every day;
- 50 million people worldwide are estimated to be injured in road crashes each year, 15 million seriously;
- The economic cost to low and middle income countries is estimated at US\$ 65 billion - \$100 billion, more than all incoming development aid;
- For men aged 15-44 road traffic injuries rank second (behind HIV/AIDS) as the leading cause of premature death and ill health worldwide;
- By 2020, unless action is taken, road traffic injuries are predicted to rise overall by about 65%;
- Low and middle income countries account for more than 80% of global deaths from road traffic crashes.

## The economic cost of road crashes

- The global financial cost of road traffic injuries is estimated at US\$ 518 billion each year;
- The cost to low and middle income countries is estimated at US\$ 65 billion - \$100 billion, more than all incoming development aid;
- Road traffic injuries (RTI) cost the USA US\$ 230 billion a year (2.3% of GNP);
- The cost to the EU 15 is €180 billion a year, twice the annual EU budget;
- RTIs cost South Africa US\$ 2 billion in 2000;
- In Uganda the cost is around US\$ 101 billion a year (2.3% GNP);
- In China in 1999 RTIs cost US\$ 12.5 billion, almost four times the annual health budget;
- In the Middle East the cost of accidents is estimated at US\$ 7.4 billion, or 1.5% of GNP.

## Motorisation trends and road traffic injury forecasts

- Most major high income countries (e.g. UK, Japan, Italy, Germany) have between 400-600 motor vehicles per 1000 population;
- China has 80 motor vehicles per 1000 population. Annual car sales have risen from less than 1 million in 1998 to 2 million in 2003 and are predicted to increase to nearly 5 million a year by 2008;
- India has 34 motor vehicles per 1000 population; South Africa has 144; Kenya has 14; Indonesia has 81 motor vehicles per 1000 population;
- In South East Asia motorcycles are predicted to account for up to 70% of the vehicle fleet by 2020. The number of motorcycles in Vietnam increased by 29% in 2001. Road deaths rose by 37% in the same year;
- Road traffic deaths are predicted to rise on average by more than 80% in low and middle income countries by 2020, while high income countries will continue to improve, with a 30% reduction in road deaths compared with 1990;
- According to World Bank forecasts, South Asia will see a 144% increase in road deaths by 2020, from a base date of 2000. India's death rate is expected to rise until 2042;
- The Middle East and North Africa are forecast to see a 68% increase in road deaths over the same period 2000-2020;
- These figures are based on no remedial action being taken.

Sources for statistics: WHO; World Bank; TRL; ECMT. Some statistics are based on estimates due to lack of effective data reporting in many low income countries