



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT



Safe & Sober Talk Athens – 3 November 25

Alcohol Interlock legislation in Belgium



BE situation DUI alcohol

- BAC limit: 0.5, professional drivers 0.2 ‰
 - Several attempts to lower threshold for all drivers...
- 2024 :
 - 50 000 drivers caught for DUI
 - 40 % of road crashes during **weekend nights** are linked to DUI
 - 3764 **injury crashes** involving a driver under influence of alcohol (- 8%)
 - > 10 per day
 - 69% was tested, 8% positive.





BE situation DUI alcohol

'BOB'-campaign: drinking vs. driving

- **Police checks + sensibilization** (influencers, sport clubs, singers,...)
- BOB is celebrating its 30th anniversary
- **5 months a year:**
 - 3 summer months (BBQ, World cup, music festivals)
 - 2 winter months (Xmas markets, new year parties)
- Summer campaign:
 - > 500 000 checks
 - 1,6 % positive checks

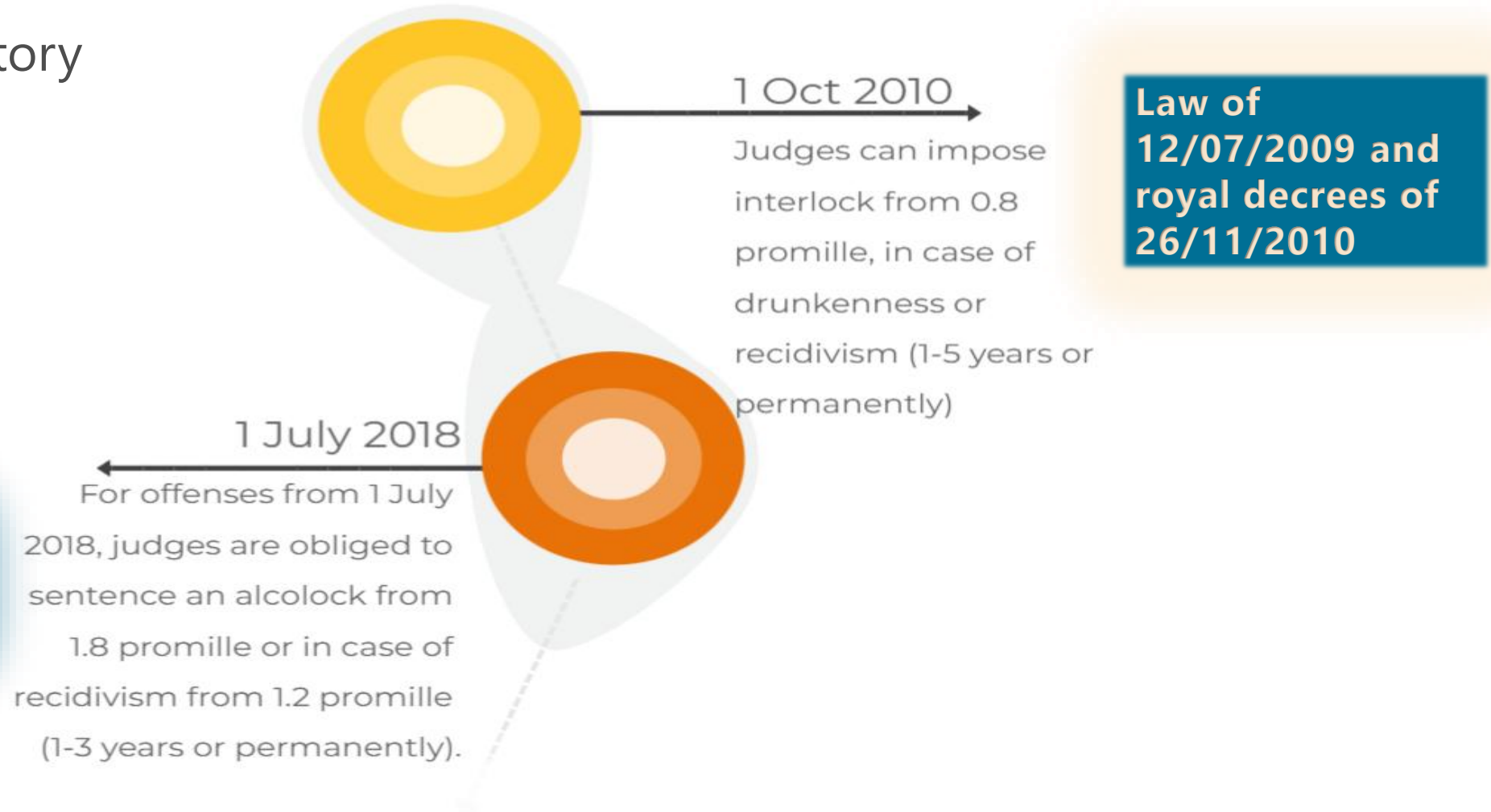
Who drives, does not drink





Alcohol Interlock legislation in BE

BE legislative history





Targeted offenders for alcohol interlock

Judge MAY impose

- intoxication ≥ 0.8 BAC
- drunkenness
- slight recidivism

**Heavy
drink-
drivers**

Judge **MUST** impose

- **severe intoxication (≥ 1.8 BAC)**
unless properly motivated
- **≥ 1.2 BAC for repeat offenders** *no exception possible*

= 1 – 3 years/ for life

The judge can exempt certain **vehicle categories** from interlock (e.g. bus/truck),
except the category of offense

Out of scope:

- alcohol addiction (driving ban)
- driving ban for life



Number of interlocks for offenders

2009-10: 1st legislation

2013: 1st device installed

2014: 7 offenders convicted

until 2017: only 66 persons in monitoring program

2018: 2nd legislation

2019: 165 installations (> 2900 convictions)

2020: 600 installations (> 3800 convictions)

2021: 860 installations

2022: 960 installations

2023: > 1000 installations

2024: **1282 installations** (> 2500 programs ongoing)



Notification of the judgment by public prosecutor to convicted person: choice to make

1. No interlock

No more driving
during same period



2. Alcohol Interlock



Monitoring program: a roadmap (1/3)



Notification of the judgment by
public prosecutor



Person **contacts accredited monitoring centre**

Training and guidance by psychologists

≥ 3 years' professional experience

Trained on risks and consequences of drink-driving, breath alcohol

No medical follow-up



Introductory meeting within 14 days to explain the
program (device, costs, driving licence, follow-up,
data downloads, ...)



Monitoring program: a roadmap (2/3)



Training on how to use the device, consequences of circumventing the system, risks and consequences of drink-driving, breath alcohol - within 30 days

	9.	10.	11.	12.
13. AM	01.12.81	----	----	----
14. A1	01.12.81	----	----	----
A2	01.12.81	----	----	----
A	01.12.81	----	----	----
B	01.12.81	15.04.18	69	----
C1	23.03.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)	----
C	23.03.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)	----
D1	----	----	----	----
D	----	----	----	----
BE	01.12.81	15.04.18	69	----
C1E	24.04.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)	----
CE	24.04.92	04.01.18	95(09.09.16)	----
D1E	----	----	----	----
DE	----	----	----	----
G	07.04.10	----	----	----

12. T:04.01.18

Driving licence needs a code **69** - within 30 days



Installation of the device in accredited service centre
- within 30 days



4 – 8 months later: **3h training** to share experiences, intentions and strategies to keep driving and drinking separate



Monitoring program: a roadmap (3/3)



Periodic **downloads** of registration unit by service centre every 2 months (after 1 year every 6 months).

Data stored on a secured place and only readable by monitoring centre



Every time an evaluation of these data by monitoring centre. Whenever necessary and at least twice a year:

individual guidance interview



Closing meeting



Removal of the device



Conditions to fulfill during monitoring program

- pay costs in time
- duly participate in the program
- not drink drive anymore (≤ 0.2 BAC)
- not too often try to start under influence
- not disconnect or circumvent the system (abnormal results)



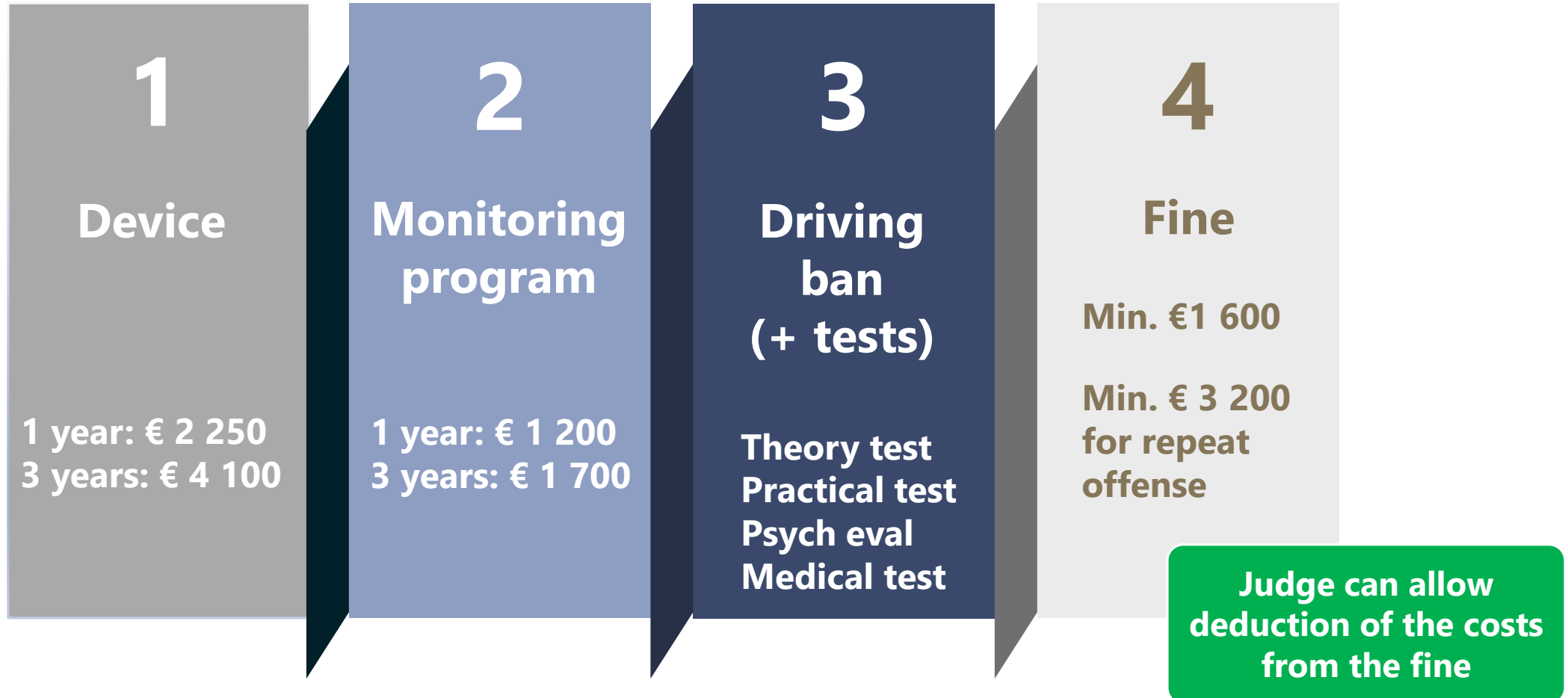
if not: program comes to early end & monitoring centre notifies public prosecutor in detail



public prosecutor can summon before court (judge: imprisonment, driving ban, fine)



Consequences of conviction





Costs



1 year: € 3500

3 years: € 6000

- 65 – 70% device and downloads
- 30 – 35% monitoring program

How to lower the huge costs?

- Judges can allow deduction of the costs from the fine
- Monitoring program: pay by instalments
- Device to rent (30%)/ purchase (70%)
- Second hand market
- Open market for monitoring centres, service centres and model-approved devices





Our good strategies

- 1, Convince and even push judges (but give some margin)
- 2, Monitoring program as a game changer
- 3, Annual verification of device by an accredited body (independency)
- 4, Several manufacturers: lower prices, different accents like allow rental
- 5, Territorial coverage of service centres (2: 33) and monitoring centres (4: 74)
- 6, A program of 5 years is too long; 1-3 years can cause positive behavioral changes
- 7, Keep device afterwards - helps keeping up good habits (without program)
- 8, Threshold at 0.2 pm (zero tolerance)

Our issues



1, Time gap between offence and sanction: 12 to 18 months

2, Alcohol dependency or not (driving ban versus interlock)?

No standard medical check

3, Judges often opt out if they can (first offenders)

4, Retests while driving to counter circumvention (retest to be completed within 15')

5, Combination driving ban (+ tests) + interlock = complex

Subsequent decisions may need proper arrangements with public prosecutor

Alcohol interlocks: win – win



Safe roads

- Monitoring program helps for lasting behaviour change
 - ⑩ During interlock period: chance on drink driving - 75%
 - ⑩ Afterwards: some studies show behaviour change *if monitored*

Possibility to keep on driving (social & professional life)

[Video ETSC: "It has changed my life..." - How alcohol interlocks can save lives and change lives - YouTube](#)



Measures announced by the current government in the fight against drink-driving:

- Repeat offenders $\geq 0,5$ BAC automatically referred to court.
- Mandatory interlock for repeat offenders ≥ 0.8 BAC (unless exception by judge).
- Interlock suitable for addicts?



FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE
MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT

Thank you for your attention!



all for zero

FPS Mobility and Transport



| www.mobiliteit.belgium.be

