

# Driver distraction and road safety

PIN Talk, Ljubljana | 5 October 2026



European Transport Safety Council

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European Transport Safety Council

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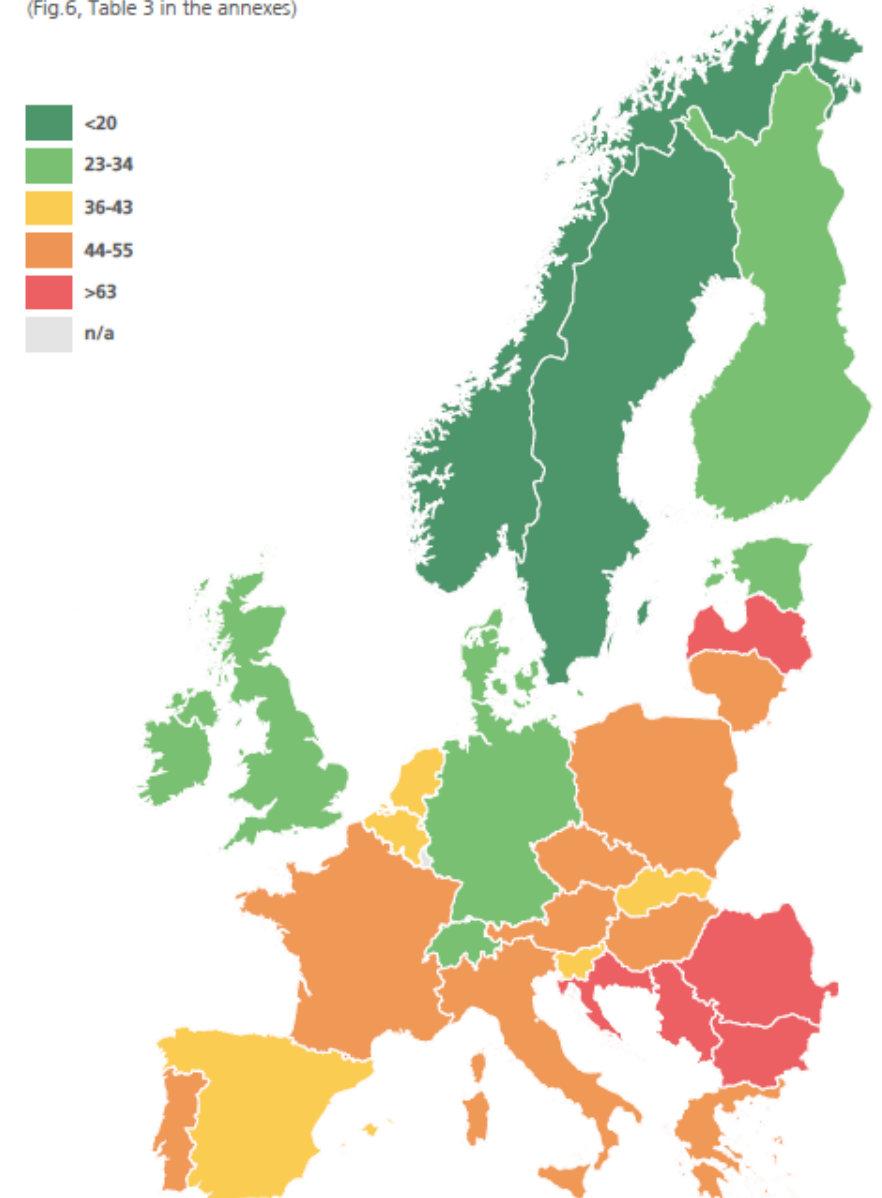
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# ETSC PIN PROGRAMME

- ✓ Ranking road safety performance across participating countries since 2006
- ✓ Reflecting road safety conditions and progress
- ✓ Identifying best practice
- ✓ Recognising achievements, identifying shortcomings



**MAP 2:**  
Road deaths per million inhabitants in 2025  
(Fig.6, Table 3 in the annexes)

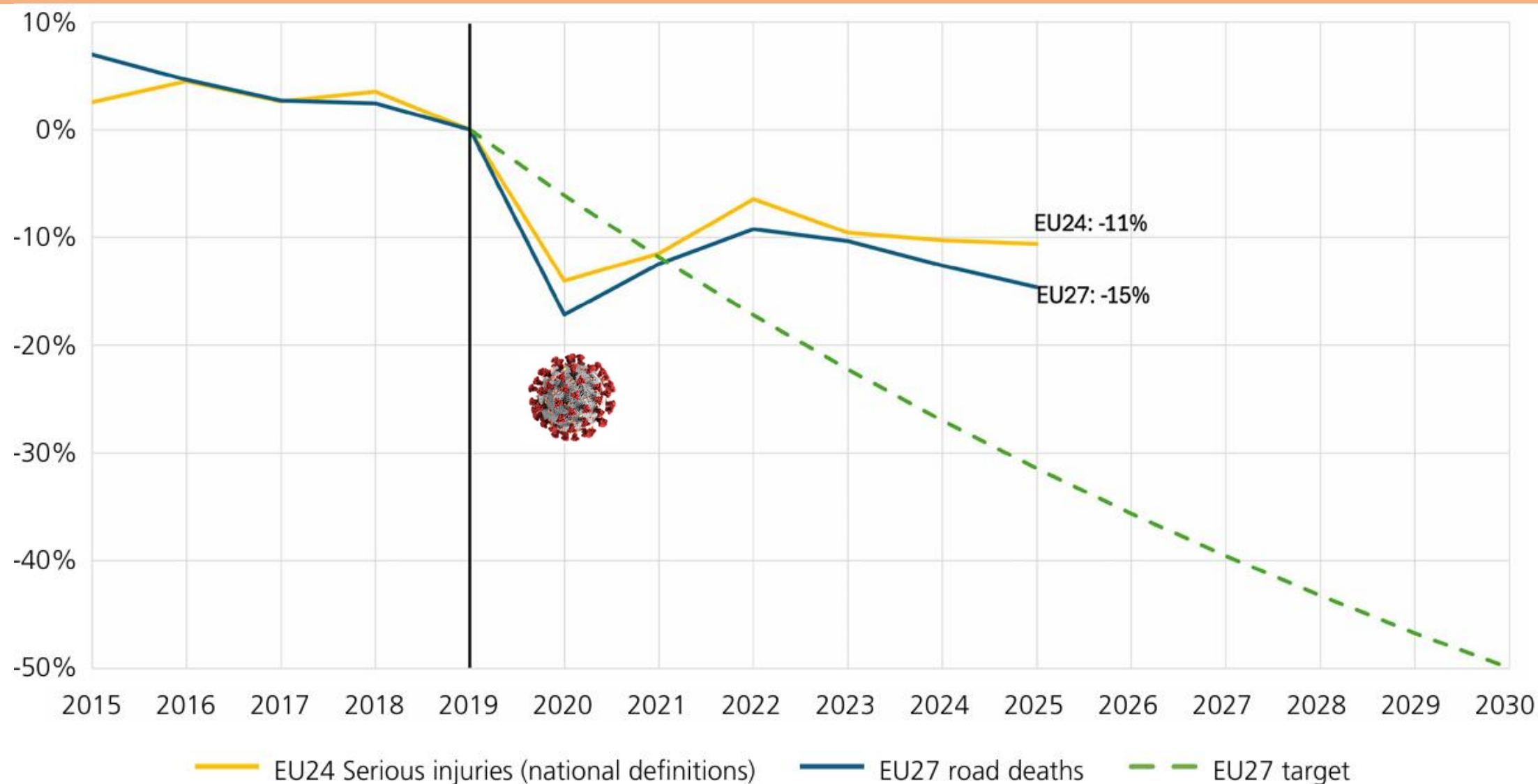


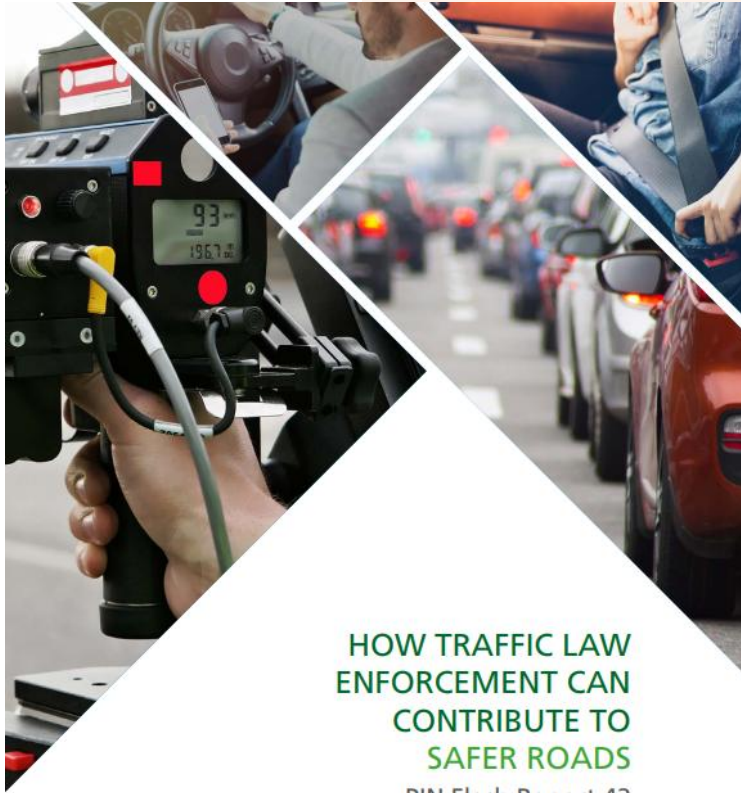
# 19,492

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people died in road traffic  
in the EU in 2025

# ROAD SAFETY PROGRESS 2015-2025





HOW TRAFFIC LAW  
ENFORCEMENT CAN  
CONTRIBUTE TO  
SAFER ROADS

PIN Flash Report 42

March 2022



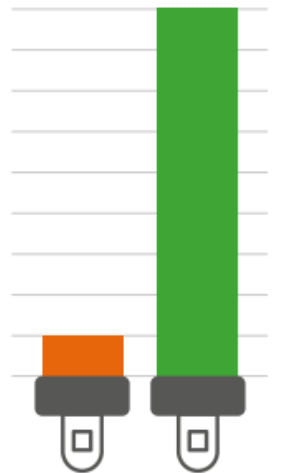
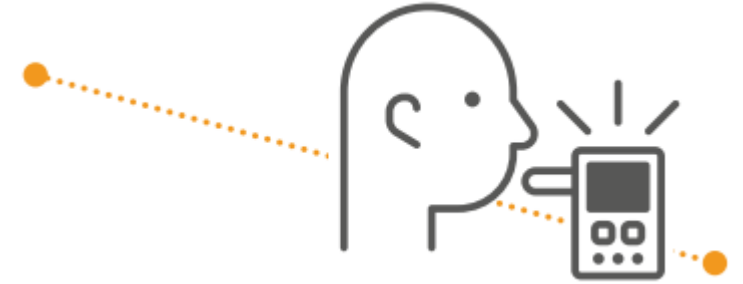
# PIN Flash Report 42

## How traffic law enforcement can contribute to safer roads

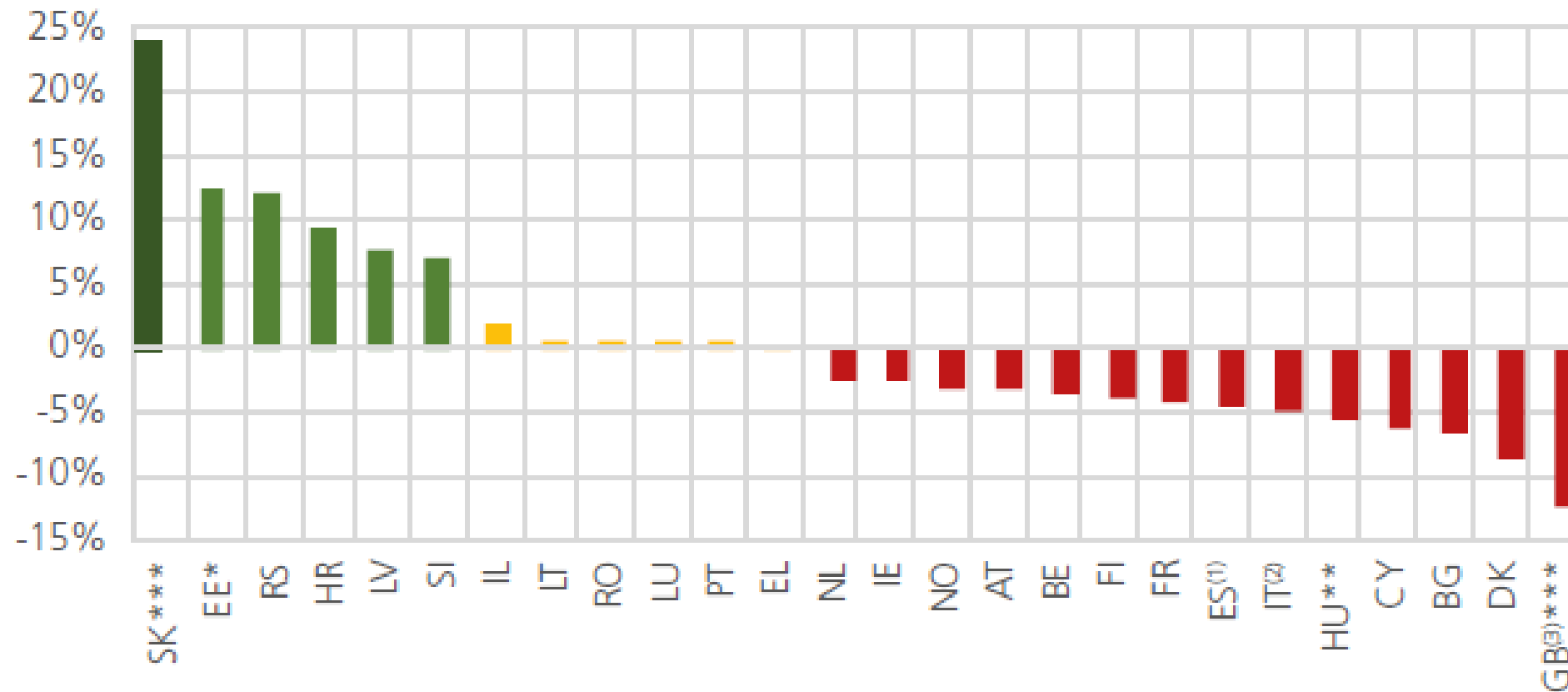
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# Focus of the PIN Report

- Speed
- Drink-driving and drug driving
- Seatbelt use
- Mobile phone use while driving
- Cross border enforcement



# Mobile phone use - annual change in tickets - 2010-19



# Tickets for illegal mobile use - 2010-19

|    | Mobile phone tickets per 1000 inhabitants |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|----|-------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|    | 2020                                      | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 2011 | 2010 |
| SI | 17.5                                      | 15.1 | 11.0 | 14.3 | 7.0  | 9.9  | 11.3 | 9.7  | 3.5  | 9.0  | 9.6  |
| IL | 16.6                                      | 18.4 | 13.9 | 12.3 | 9.5  | 7.3  | 7.0  | 8.8  | 12.6 | 13.3 | 13.9 |
| AT | 13.6                                      | 14.0 | 13.1 | 13.0 | 12.1 | 12.7 | 15.4 | 16.3 | 17.7 | 17.8 | 15.4 |
| LT | 12.5                                      | 6.9  | 7.1  | 6.5  | 6.1  | 7.1  | 7.0  | 8.0  | 9.3  | 6.5  | 4.9  |
| HR | 11.1                                      | 10.6 | 10.0 | 9.0  | 8.7  | 9.2  | 9.5  | 7.5  | 5.7  | 5.2  | 4.6  |
| NL | 9.7                                       | 7.0  | 4.7  | 4.4  | 3.5  | 2.0  | 4.0  | 4.1  | 3.8  | 6.0  | 8.5  |
| DE | 8.4                                       | 8.5  | 6.6  | 5.1  | 5.0  | 4.8  | 4.3  | 3.5  | 3.0  | 3.0  | 3.0  |
| RO | 2.6                                       | 3.5  | 3.6  | 3.3  | 3.9  | 3.6  | 3.9  | 4.2  | 3.3  | 3.4  | 3.2  |
| SK | 2.6                                       | 3.9  | 4.8  | 4.2  | 3.4  | 3.6  | 2.1  | 1.6  | 1.2  | 0.8  | 0.0  |
| LV | 2.1                                       | 2.6  | 1.8  | 1.6  | 2.0  | 1.8  | 1.3  | 1.4  | 1.4  | 1.4  | 1.0  |
| BG | 1.8                                       | 1.9  | 1.9  | 1.4  | 1.4  | 1.0  | 2.2  | 2.5  | 2.1  | 2.6  | 3.1  |
| SE | 1.4                                       | 0.9  | 0.2  | n/a  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| PL | 1.4                                       | 1.9  | 1.9  | n/a  |      | 3.2  | 3.2  | 2.4  | 1.9  | 1.5  | 1.3  |
| EL | 1.3                                       | 1.5  | 1.7  | 2.2  | 2.4  | 1.8  | 2.1  | 2.2  | 1.7  | 1.7  | 1.7  |
| FI | 1.0                                       | 0.9  | 1.3  | 1.1  | 1.5  | 1.4  | 1.1  | 1.2  | 1.5  | 1.6  | 1.5  |
| EE | n/a                                       |      | 2.8  | 1.9  | 1.1  | 1.1  | 0.6  | 1.0  | 1.8  | 0.8  | 0.0  |

# Distraction - infotainment systems

- impair reaction times behind the wheel more than alcohol and cannabis use.
- controlling via a touch screen resulted in reaction times that were worse than texting while driving.

As from July 2024, vehicle manufacturers will also have to install 'advanced driver distraction warning' (ADDW) systems, which aim to assist drivers to pay attention to the traffic situation and warn them when they are distracted.



# Distraction - vehicle technologies

- Since July 2024 - mandatory 'advanced driver distraction warning' (ADDW) systems in cars
- Warns a driver who has been looking at their lap or feet, or the equivalent area on the passenger's side, for a prolonged period - not infotainment systems



The infographic, titled 'Europe on the Move', features the European Commission logo at the top. It illustrates a car on a road with various safety features labeled around it. The features include: Improved direct vision for trucks and detection of pedestrians and cyclists; Safety glass in case of a crash, for pedestrians and cyclists; Event data recorder; Drowsiness and distraction monitoring; Lane keeping assistance; Advanced emergency braking; Intelligent speed assistance; Improved seatbelts; and Reversing camera. A small box at the bottom right mentions 'Internal market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs'.

- Advanced emergency braking (cars)
- Alcohol interlock installation facilitation (cars, vans, trucks, buses)
- Drowsiness and attention detection (cars, vans, trucks, buses)
- Distraction recognition / prevention (cars, vans, trucks, buses)
- Event (accident) data recorder (cars and vans)
- Emergency stop signal (cars, vans, trucks, buses)
- Full-width frontal occupant protection crash test - improved seatbelts (cars and vans)
- Head impact zone enlargement for pedestrians and cyclists - safety glass in case of crash (cars and vans)
- Intelligent speed assistance (cars, vans, trucks, buses)
- Lane keeping assist (cars, vans)
- Pole side impact occupant protection (cars, vans)
- Reversing camera or detection system (cars, vans, trucks, buses)
- Tyre pressure monitoring system (vans, trucks, buses)
- Vulnerable road user detection and warning on front and side of vehicle (trucks and buses)
- Vulnerable road user improved direct vision from driver's position (trucks and buses)

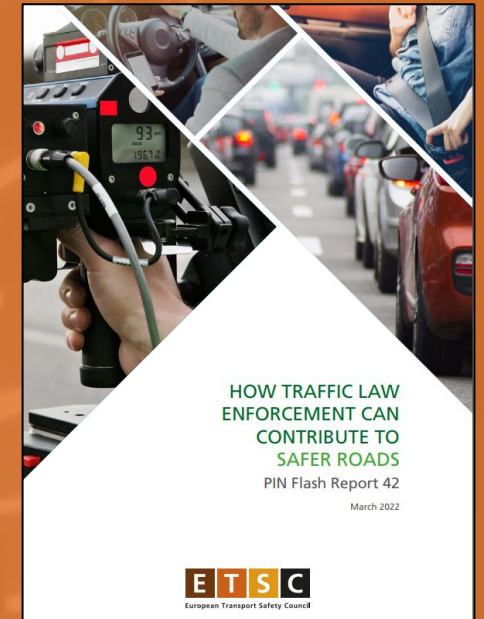
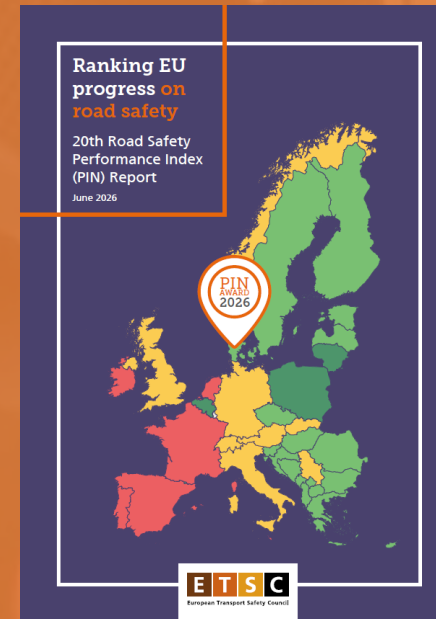
# Recommendations to national governments

- Conduct intensive enforcement actions of one-week duration on illegal use of mobile phone at least twice a year, coupled with intensive publicity campaigns and report the effort.
- Include illegal use of a mobile phone while driving in penalty point systems.
- Introduce automatic enforcement of restrictions on mobile phone use.
- Introduce procedures which allow police to verify whether a mobile phone was used at a time of a fatal collision by establishing information exchange between the police and mobile network providers.

# Recommendations to the EU

- Ban use of all mobile phones while driving.
- Encourage member states to include data on distraction in their reporting to the European Commission's CARE database.
- Encourage telecom companies to develop a driving mode
- Adopt a new EU Key Performance Indicator on the enforcement effort (e.g. number of checks) and results (number of violations detected and sanctioned) over time in the priority area of illegal use of mobile devices.

# THANK YOU!



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