

ROAD OPERATORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR ROAD SAFETY IN THE EU

The sixth annual ASECAP road safety event, dedicated to « **Deploying road safety priorities in the EU : the role of road infrastructure operators** », took place at the European Parliament in Brussels on 6 March 2013, with the support of MEP Antonio Cancian. The programme of the event and the technical presentations made can be consulted [here](#).

ASECAP (www.asecap.com) is the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures, whose members' networks today span more than 45.000 km of motorways, bridges and tunnels across 21 countries, applying tolls as a means to ensure the financing of their construction, maintenance and operation. These road infrastructures count the lowest rate of fatalities and accidents in Europe, road safety constituting a key priority of toll road operators as illustrated by the real-life examples given during the event's technical session.

Representatives of the European Parliament and the European Commission discussed together with ASECAP about coordinated actions aimed at strengthening the implementation of current and planned EU policy actions in the field of road safety.

According to the event's host MEP Antonio Cancian, *“our aims for 2020 seem very ambitious, but it is really the minimum we can expect when it comes to saving lives on the road. While having good laws and plans for that is fine, we need to implement them and cooperate to that end”*.

From his side, Mr. Pawel Stelmaszczyk, Head of Unit in charge of Intelligent Transport Systems at the European Commission's DG MOVE, underlined that *“As regards motorways specifically, our data show that that the measures taken and the investments made are giving results. However, we must keep challenging ourselves; together we should reflect on how to tackle specific accidents of particular relevance for motorways, for instance those involving heavy goods vehicles and buses”*.

ASECAP Secretary-General Kallistratos Dionelis stressed that ASECAP members are fulfilling their commitment towards Vision Zero, in particular through the intelligent management of their infrastructure. He also insisted that EU policy-makers apply both a top-down and bottom-up approach, and invited them to set up a coordinating structure where policy-makers and industry can meet for that purpose. For ASECAP President Klaus Schierhackl, the excellent results achieved are clearly based on the sector's integrated approach to sustainable road transport: *“As road operators, we attach high priority to road safety; however, we do not see road safety as a stand-alone issue, but as an integral part of managing well our networks, in a cost-efficient way”*.