

Liikenneturva – Central Organisation of Road Safety in Finland

Situation report 2011 for ETSC

Traffic safety situation in Finland

By the end of the year 2010, there were 270 road traffic fatalities in Finland. The objective of the five-year road traffic safety plan was to push the number of traffic deaths under 250 in 2010. This goal was almost met. The target of the new programme – presently under preparation – is to continue to decrease the number of traffic fatalities to about 215.

During the last two years, the economic recession cut down the volume of especially heavy traffic and this, in turn, had an effect on the dropping number of encounter-type accidents. As the economy has recovered, so has the number of accidents picked up again. In the beginning of the year, however, the safety situation has improved somewhat when analysed as a whole.

New national traffic safety plan nearing completion

Under the new plan, which will be completed in the spring, the aim is to decrease the number of traffic fatalities in the year 2014 under 216. The focus points of the plan are to

- decrease drunk driving
- develop driving health evaluation
- tighter monitoring of speeding
- increasing the use of safety equipment
- improving youth safety
- calming down urban area traffic
- decreasing traffic fatalities on main roads by e.g. adding centre rails

The plan has been sent to the appropriate officials and organisations for a round of comments.

Safety of moped driving and new moped license

Annually in Finland, about ten moped drivers die and 1,000 moped drivers are injured in accidents. Every sixth injured person had been riding passenger on a moped. Especially the share of girls riding passenger has risen. The number has increased sevenfold from 2005 when carrying passengers was first legalised.

Moped license requirements will be changed on 1 June 2011. Mandatory theory and driving teaching will become a driving license requirement for a moped as well as a moped car. Featured in the moped driver's examination, there is a theory and handling test and theory and driving test for moped car drivers.

This year Liikenneturva campaigns under a theme which involved the injuries of those hurt in moped accidents. The theme is meant to catch the attention of the parents and direct public debate to fully address the risks inherent in moped driving.

Liikenneturva changes Managing Director

The new Managing Director of Liikenneturva is Anna-Liisa Tarvainen. Tarvainen, Bachelor of Law by education, comes to Liikenneturva from the Ministry of Transport and Communications where she has worked in strategic development of traffic safety effort since 2000. Previously, Tarvainen has also served as the legal counsel for Liikenneturva.