**Press release**

**15/05/2014**

**Work-related road safety and education and formation for safe mobility, the first thematic areas**

**discussed at the VI International Congress on European Traffic Policies**

Work-related road safety and education and formation for safe mobility were the focus at the morning session of the first day of the VI International Conference on European Traffic Policies, held at the World Trade Center in Barcelona.

With regard to **work-related road safety**, it is to be noted that in 2013, 33.25% of all traffic fatalities in Catalonia occurred in a work environment, whether in commute trips --to or from work-- or in trips during the workday. Faced with this reality, **Joan Aregio**, Secretary General of Employment and Industrial Relations of the Department of Enterprise and Employment, moderator of the round table, noted that "road safety is a policy for all the government. Therefore it requires interdisciplinary coordination at all times of the administration itself as well as the contribution of all other stakeholders involved in order to reduce work-related traffic accidents". Precisely in this line, he recalled the existence of the Work-Related Road Safety Working Group, which aims to seek and provide solutions to improve work-related road safety for example, by promoting in-company road safety plans, which will translated in formation courses for technicians of occupational risk prevention and in specific formation courses for the workers.

**Jesus Monclús**, Head of research projects of the Institute of Road Safety at the Mapfre Foundation, said "2 out of 3 traffic fatalities occur when commuting to or from work". He also recalled the need to further study of "a problem that has significant social costs".

Moreover, **Marta Zimmerman**, Director of the Department of Research and Information (INSHT) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, made a careful analysis of traffic accidents in Spain, emphasizing among other things, that "72.1% of work-related accidents correspond to commuting accidents and 27.8% to *in missio* accidents".

**Peter Hartzell**, Secretary of the Swedish Standards Institute, noted that "the ISO 39001 standard for road safety management systems, is a tool to address work-related road safety in a structured manner. Moreover, it is an effective and efficient long-term solution that can be applied by public and private companies alike".

**Omar Minguillón**, Secretary of Institutional Policy and Mobility of the General Workers’ Union --UGT—in Catalonia, focused on Strategic Road Safety Plans during his speech. Minguillón is committed to “promoting a modal shift in commute trips, opting for public transport, transport companies or car-pooling, among others, to the detriment of individual car use".

Lastly, **Manel Ferri**, Head of the Department of Mobility of the Trade Union Commission –CCOO-- in Catalonia, spoke of the involvement of the mobility managers in road safety. Ferri highlighted the importance that companies should be jointly responsible, along with the other stakeholders, for ensuring work-related road safety and encouraging the use of other types of transportation beyond the dominant modal pattern of private vehicles". In this regard, he underlined "the importance of implementing work-related mobility plans with the support of the administration as an intermediary, encouraging favourable tax policies and creating an observatory for work-related mobility where all the data concerning work-related traffic accidents are centralized and analyzed.

With regard to **education and formation for safe mobility**, on which the debate focused at the second round table of the VI Conference, it must be noted that this is one of the basics of road safety in any country in order that citizens can develop the necessary skills for effective mobility. Life long learning for people of values ​​and habits of safe mobility with the involvement of teachers and trainers in all social spheres (schools, driving schools, companies, associations, etc.) is a basic tool to keep increasing road safety.

**Garbiñe Sáez**, Director of Road Traffic of the Basque Government, who moderated the second round table, defended "the need to create social awareness to prevent further road accidents". She also emphasized "the importance of Life long learning (LLL) of individuals and in all sectors of the population".

**Henk Stipdonk,** Senior Researcher of the Dutch Institute for Road Safety Research (SWOV) underlined that "we can educate children but if we do not educate their parents as well, the work will not be too useful".

On the other hand, **Josep Montané**, Department of Road Safety Education and Training (UAB), offered a presentation on the effectiveness of points-recovery courses. He explained the study that had been carried out in which relating the recovery of points courses were in relation to the penalties imposed on students of these courses two years before and two years after the formation received. Montané explained that "we have to achieve a society in which no driver has two penalties per year and ultimately, we must generally reduce the penalties to reach the EU target of zero deaths by 2050".

**José Miguel Bàez**, President of the National Confederation of Driving Schools (CNAE), spoke about how to optimize road safety education programs for new and future drivers. During his speech, he underlined that "driving schools are working with the authorities to design a new evaluation model that includes any aspects related to the awareness of risk".

Lastly, **Francesc Esteban**, training consultant and professor at the University Ramon Llull (URL), offered a presentation on the governing model of safe mobility from the Catalan Traffic Service (SCT). Esteban stressed "the importance of life long learning on road safety, not so much focused on age but on progress in acquiring skills throughout the life cycle". He also emphasized that there can be no sustainable mobility without safe mobility”.