

Press Release

Paris, 20 November 2008

The Latest News on Road Crashes is Depressing

International Transport Forum Presents the Latest Available Data on Road Crashes

“The latest news on road crashes is depressing” said the Secretary General of the International Transport Forum **Jack Short** today in Paris, as he presented the most recent data from the International Transport Forum.

Over 150 000 people lost their lives and a further 6 million people were injured in road crashes in the 44 countries of the Forum that reported data for 2007.

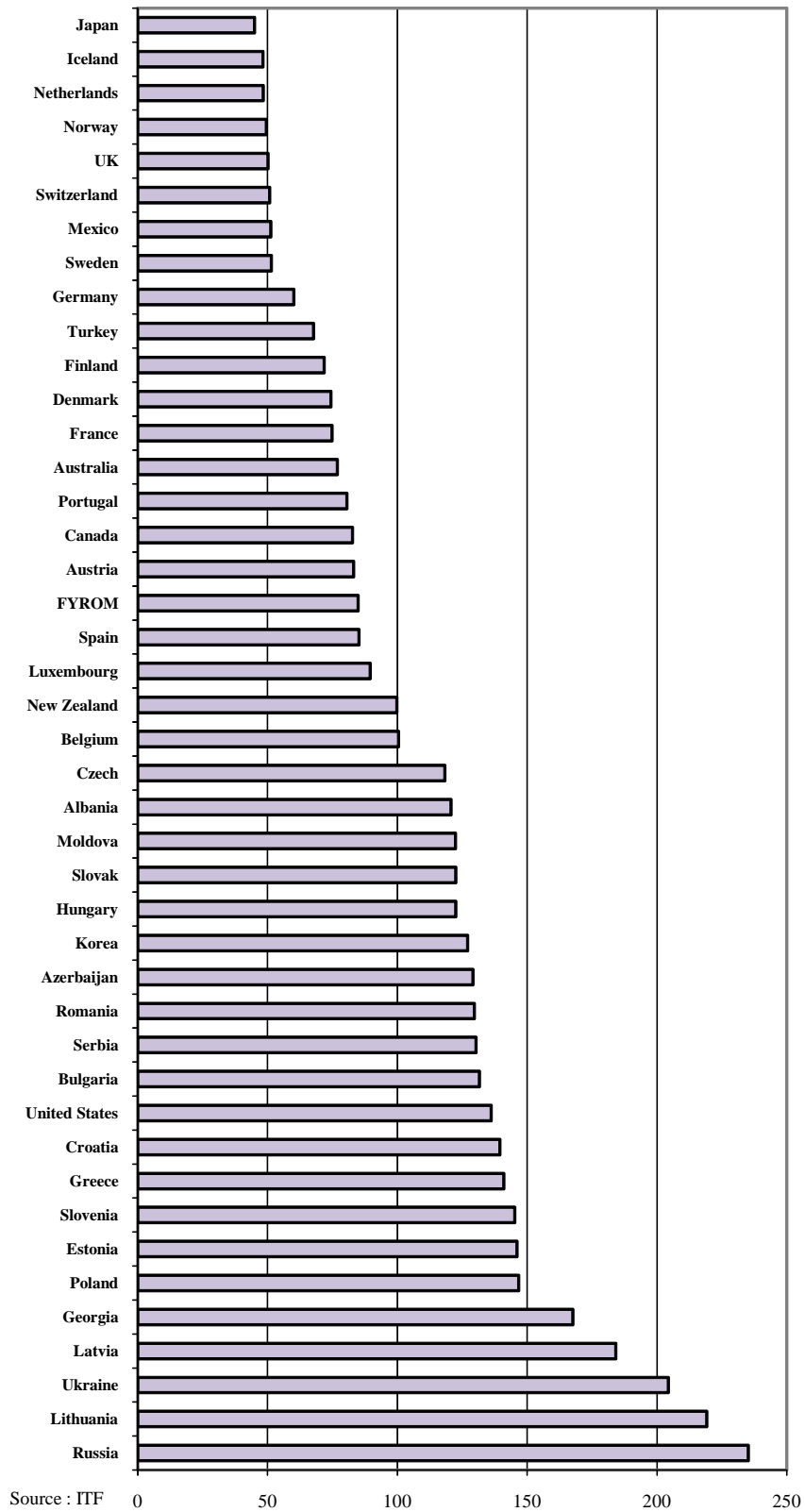
Road deaths per capita vary by a factor of almost 8 across the countries. “This is what is most depressing”, said Short, “the measures and policies to reduce crashes and fatalities are well known. If all countries had fatality rates like Japan, Norway, UK or the Netherlands more than 80 000 lives would be saved”.

Looking regionally, Central and Eastern Europe both show significant increases in fatalities. Rapid motorisation is a factor in the region but the figures show “the lack of continuous and determined political effort” in these countries, according to Short.

In Western Europe, the picture is more mixed but the recent decline in fatalities has slowed and the 1.2% decline in 2007 fatalities is the smallest for the last 5 years. Moreover, in Western Europe the number of casualties and the number of injury accidents have increased “a sure sign that we are not making our road system safer” said the Secretary General.

Better news comes from countries outside Europe where there have been small reductions in fatalities, casualties and injury accidents in the major countries. The US reduced both injury accidents and casualties for the seventh consecutive year; Japan’s striking improvement makes it now the best performing country in the International Transport Forum with 45 fatalities per million inhabitants.

**Total number of deaths per million population
2007**



In **Western Europe** the number of road traffic fatalities declined in 2007 by 1.2%. However this decrease was accompanied by a rise in both the number of casualties (+1.4%) and the number of accidents (+5.6%). These data are strongly influenced by the performance of Turkey which has shown significant increases in all three indicators. In 2007, only the United Kingdom and Greece recorded drops in the number of fatalities, casualties and injury accidents. At the same time Denmark, Finland and Sweden have seen their road fatalities increase by 32.7%, 13.1% and 5.8% respectively.

In **Central and Eastern Europe** the number of road fatalities increased by 6.4% in 2007. This result is all the more disappointing since the region recorded at the same time strong increases in the number of casualties (+6.4%) and number of accidents (+6.7%). With the exception of Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary and Lithuania, which show a drop in road fatalities, casualties and injury accidents, all other countries have been confronted with a rise in the number of fatalities on their roads. Countries like the Czech Republic and Romania saw their fatalities increase by 15% and 12.8% respectively.

In 2007, the **Community of Independent States (CIS)** recorded a strong rise of its road fatalities by 8.2%, breaking the positive signs recorded in the last few years. With the exception of Russia (+1.8%) the number of persons killed on roads increased strongly in all countries, and particularly in Ukraine with +38.1%.

As far as **non European** members of the ITF are concerned, they continue to show encouraging results in 2007, recording a drop of 3.1% in the number of fatalities, 2.8% in the number of casualties and 3.3% in the number of injury accidents. Only Mexico and New Zealand are showing a strong rise in road fatalities (+10% and 7.9% respectively). The number of casualties and injury accidents are also increasing in these two countries.

Behind these global figures there are significant variations from one country to another, as the following tables show:

Road fatalities in 2007		
Western Europe	Number of fatalities	2007/2006 %
Austria	691	-5.3
Belgium	1 067	-0.2
Denmark	406	32.7
Finland	380	13.1
France	4 620	-1.9
Germany	4 949	-2.8
Greece	1 578	-4.8
Iceland	15	-51.6
Luxembourg	43	19.4
Malta	12	9.1
Netherlands	791	-2.5
Norway	233	-3.7
Portugal	854	0.5

Road fatalities in 2007 (cont'd)		
Western Europe	Number of fatalities	2007/2006 %
Spain	3 823	-6.8
Sweden	471	5.8
Switzerland	384	3.8
Turkey	5 004	8.0
United Kingdom	3 059	-7.2
Total	28 380	-1.2

Central and Eastern Europe	Number of fatalities	2007/2006 %
Albania	384	38.6
Bulgaria	1 006	-3.5
Croatia	619	0.8
Czech Republic	1 222	15.0
Estonia	196	-3.9
FYROM	173	23.6
Hungary	1 232	-5.4
Latvia	419	2.9
Lithuania	740	-2.6
Poland	5 583	6.5
Romania	2 794	12.8
Serbia	962	6.9
Slovakia	661	8.7
Slovenia	293	11.8
Total	16 284	6.4

CIS countries	Number of fatalities	2007/2006 %
Azerbaijan	1 107	7.8
Georgia	737	9.2
Moldova	464	21.5
Russia	33 308	1.8
Ukraine	9 481	38.1
Total	45 097	8.2

Other ITF	Number of fatalities	2007/2006 %
Australia	1 616	1.1
Canada	2 729	-5.6
Japan	5 744	-9.6
Korea	6 166	-2.5
Mexico	5 398	10.0
New Zealand	422	7.9
United States	41 059	-3.9
Total	63 134	-3.1

Aggregates	Number of fatalities	2007/2006 %
OECD¹	106 234	-1.8
EU²	42 924	0.2
ITF^{1,3}	158 929	1.3

- 1) For Italy and Ireland, the number of fatalities refers to the year 2006.
 2) Cyprus is not included.
 3) Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia, Montenegro, are not included.

More detailed information on latest trends will be available on the Forum website in December 2008 (www.internationaltransportforum.org) and in the forthcoming publication “Trends in the Transport Sector, 1970-2007”. This information may be reproduced, provided the ITF is quoted as the source.

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