EuroSafe
European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion

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Latest News

EU-SAFETY 2025: Save the date
The *2025 European Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion* (***EU-Safety 2025***) will take place in Heraklion, Greece on **1 & 2 October 2025**. The two-day conference aims to strengthen the field of injury prevention and safety promotion in Europe by facilitating the exchange of scientific knowledge and enabling networking opportunities for researchers, safety organisations and academics. *More details to follow soon*.

20,400 died on EU roads last year
In 2023, 20,400 people lost their lives in road collisions across the EU, with 46 road deaths per million people. While the long-term trend shows a 10% reduction in fatalities compared to 2019, the current pace of decline falls short of the required 4.5% annual reduction needed to achieve the EU's goal of halving road deaths by 2030.
Progress continues to be very uneven between member states: in 2023, Czechia, Cyprus, Poland, Romania and Finland registered their lowest figures since modern records began. Poland reported a 35% drop in the number of fatalities between 2019 and 2023 while Ireland reported an increase of 31%. However, the overall ranking of countries' fatality rates has not changed significantly, with the safest roads in Sweden (22 deaths per million inhabitants) and Denmark (26/million), while Bulgaria (82/million)

and Romania (81/million) reported the highest fatality rates in 2023.

EU-IDB annual meeting in Lisbon
The annual meeting of members of the European Injury Database (EU-IDB) takes place on 18-19 November in Lisbon. The purpose of the EU-IDB, which EuroSafe co-ordinates, is to facilitate targeted injury prevention policies and programmes at EU and member state level. The database provides information on frequency, main causes, circumstances and consequences of non-fatal injuries that are treated in accident and emergency departments across Europe. The annual meeting is a chance for IDB members to discuss new rules and plans for the coming year as well as to welcome new members.
The 17th European Public Health Conference was also held in Lisbon this month (13-15 November). During the conference, EuroSafe/IDB network co-organised two workshops on the topics of: *Child injuries monitoring and reporting: Challenges and technological developments* and *Road traffic injuries, disability burden and implications for compensation schemes in Europe*.

Concerns over LEDs in toys
The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) is calling for a revision of the eye safety section of standard *EN 62115:2020* 'Electric toys - Safety' because it says the current version "does not guarantee compliance with the limit values needed to ensure the protection of children's eyes".
LEDs have become widespread in everyday objects, including toys. However, children are more sensitive to blue-light exposure from LEDs than adults because their eyes do not sufficiently filter it. High exposure levels can have both short and long-term consequences, including

temporary loss of vision. Blue light exposure can also have a disruptive effect on biological rhythms. ANSES opinion on the effects of LEDs included in electric toys on children's health was presented to the EC Expert Group on Toy Safety in October. A follow-up meeting will be held this month.

Call for clarity on coin cell battery packaging

The European Portable Battery Association (EPBA) is calling on the European Commission to safeguard children from the hazards of ingesting lithium coin cell (LCC) batteries by supporting strict standards to ensure new LCC batteries are only sold in child-resistant packaging. Several standards measure child-resistant battery packaging. Notably, *EN 862:2016*, adopted by the European Committee for Standardization. Battery packaging compliant with *EN 862:2016* is also compliant *with IEC 60086-4:2019*. EPBA is now urging the EC and other regulators to endorse either *EN 862:2016* or *IEC 60086-4:2019* throughout the EU via the *General Product Safety Directive* or other legislation. It says such a step will significantly lower the risk of children removing and ingesting lithium coin cell batteries from the packaging.

Drivers urged to be mindful when overtaking

A new video resource is encouraging drivers to use mindfulness techniques to counter negative attitudes, anxiety or frustration which may lead them to overtake cyclists and horse riders too close or too fast.

The videos, informed by the views of over 1,000 drivers, show that mindfulness has many potential benefits for drivers including the removal of distractions, increased focus, and emotional regulation. They cover several topics including the STOP technique (Stop, Take a breath; Observe why you are feeling this and put negative thoughts aside; and Proceed) and emotion labelling – the act of verbalising your current emotion to bring it under control.

EuroSafe at #Safety2024

EuroSafe recently attended the *15th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion* (Safety 2024) which took place in India in September. The conference theme was “Building a safer future for all: Equitable and sustainable strategies for injury and violence prevention”, which addresses the fact that over 90% of the global burden of injuries and violence are borne by low- and middle-income countries. EuroSafe was pleased to participate in a side-meeting with the World Health Organization and NGOs during which we explored ways to strengthen existing collaborations on injury and violence prevention. As part of the conference, delegates signed up to the Delhi Declaration which reaffirms the commitment to address the pressing global challenges of injuries and violence.

Protecting pedestrians from road collisions

Road authorities and policymakers need to use a combination of actions to improve pedestrian safety and reduce accidents because many factors play a role in these accidents happening, a study by researchers in the Netherlands has concluded.

Researchers from VeiligheidNL surveyed pedestrians who were treated in an emergency department (ED) following a collision, as well as analysing healthcare data on pedestrians who were treated in an ED, admitted to hospital or died following a collision. They found 85% of these cases involved single-vehicle pedestrian crashes and the victims were mainly aged 60 or over. Younger people (aged 25-49) were most likely to be involved in a pedestrian accident in traffic. In 2022, there were 22,800 ED visits in the Netherlands due to pedestrian accidents, as well as 6,500 hospital admissions and 152 deaths. The full report has a summary in English.

EuroSafe

Working together to reduce the burden of home and leisure accidents in Europe

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