



## ASECAP FOR ENHANCED ROAD SAFETY IN EUROPE

### “Coordination & Cooperation: the pace in European road safety”

Prague – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010

The European toll motorways started uniting the continent in the 1970s, well before the Transport Policy became a pillar of the European initiatives aimed at fostering a cohesive and harmonious growth.

Since then, concessionaires exchanged practices, experiences and research results, thus leading to a continuous improvement in the service offered to their users. Safety has always been a fundamental part of these initiatives since the engineering practices, the design and construction solutions, and the operational methods became common and high level features among all the European toll roads operators.

ASECAP, the European Association of Operators of Tolled Road Infrastructures, represents today 20 national members representing 148 organizations that manage a toll network of over 40,000 km.

The conference “**Coordination & Cooperation: the pace in European road safety**” jointly organized by ASECAP and Kapsch Telematic Services offers to the participants the opportunity to focus on a number of road safety priorities, discuss the forthcoming 4<sup>th</sup> EU Road safety action program and to appreciate the outstanding results achieved in terms of accidents’ reduction and best operational practices by the motorways tolled concessionaires.

A specific focus – proving the ASECAP proactive approach in this field – was given to the implementation process of two EU Directives in different countries:

- EU Directive 2004/54 on Tunnels safety
- EU Directive 2008/96 on road infrastructure safety management

The conference is not a standalone event, since it is a part of the fulfillment of the ASECAP members’ mission to offer to their users reliable, sustainable and safe roads for their trips. ASECAP organizes every year a high-level event dedicated to road safety<sup>1</sup> and is among the earliest signatories of the European road safety charter<sup>2</sup>.

In doing so ASECAP brings together EU and national institutions and other major stakeholders, at the beginning of a legislature and at the eve of the disclosure of the features of the EU Road Safety Action Plan for the decade to come.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.asecap.com/english/events-other-en.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.asecap.com/english/Project-EuropeanRoadSafetyCharter-EN.htm>

## The forthcoming EU Road safety action plan 2011-2020

ASECAP members do operate the most and qualitatively best part of the road TEN, according to the most advanced standards and taking advantage of the most up to date technologies; safety performances of those roads are outstanding thanks to the resources and to the human skills devoted to make them the best of the European roads through research and implementation.

The advanced means and methods applied by the toll motorways make them the closest thing to a forgiving road but, although some of them could be generalized along the network, the user behavior remains a core feature in the road safety; furthermore, a large part of the road deaths and injuries occurs along networks out of the reach of the European legislative measures.

**ASECAP welcomes the launch of a new action plan**, after the 30% road deaths decrease marked by the first European Road Safety Action plan, and encourages the EU Institutions to make their best to promote road safety and make it embedded in the European citizens way of life.

**believes** that the targets of the next Action Plan must be as ambitious as those of the previous one, but ASECAP believes also that in doing so the many components of road safety need to be addressed, in order to make the targets achievable.

**considers** of the outmost importance a correct assessment on how an EU Action Plan can have an effect on those components - such as inappropriate behavior, deaths and injuries along rural and urban network - that are at the very basis of most of the road accidents in our continent. As the engineering practices that made the toll road network the best performing in Europe, any assessment must be based on objective parameters and shared concepts, leaving no room for subjectivity and approximation that, rather than contribute to the safety of the European citizens, would further imperil them by neglecting to address the right objectives.

**leads** in two crucial fields related to the EU legislative agenda: the tunnels safety and the road infrastructure safety management Directives' implementation.

Based on the above, the ASECAP Secretary General:

**reminds** that ASECAP has been managing its network in the last forty years.

**re-states** the sector's commitment to put the experience of ASECAP and its members at the service of the European Union and citizens, saving thus even more lives in the next years.



ASECAP is the European Association of tolled road infrastructures operators. It gathers 20 national members managing more than 40.000 km. of road networks. ASECAP mission is to promote tolling and the direct user-payer principle as the most efficient tool to finance the construction, safe operation and effective maintenance of motorways and other major road infrastructures.

<http://www.asecap.com>