

## ASECAP PRESS RELEASE

### **Tolled highways on the path to vision zero**

On 1 March 2011 in Athens, ASECAP organised its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Road Safety Event bringing together major stakeholders for an exchange of views on the best practices of tolled motorway operators to further reduce road fatalities and injuries throughout the European Union. The conference "ASECAP toll roads: a safe journey in Europe", organised in cooperation with the Greek national road association TEO, demonstrated once again that road safety is the top priority in relation to the high-quality service delivered by the tolled motorways to their users. The high safety levels of motorways are commonly recognised and this fact was underlined by representatives from the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Greek authorities present at the event.

Valuing the expertise and experience of the ASECAP members and the important role played by the tolling industry in improving the safety of every driver, EC Director Mr Enrico GRILLO PASQUARELLI said that "ASECAP members are putting road safety in practice in their daily operations" and considered PPP and earmarking of the revenues collected through road charging as the best models to further invest in safe infrastructures. In the same vein, Mr Yiannis MAGRIOTIS, Greek Deputy Minister for Infrastructures, Transport and Networks, recalled that infrastructures, managed successfully by concessions, lead to road safety and economic growth.

ASECAP's members and other key stakeholders from Europe and Greece also presented how tolled motorways are already significantly safer compared to the secondary roads, and shared their best practices regarding safety campaigns and technical improvements. In addition, they focused on how the motorways will keep working towards a continuous reduction of fatalities and severe injuries on their network until reaching the vision of zero accidents for all users, including the vulnerable ones. In this respect, Ms Inés AYALA SENDER, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), highlighted that ASECAP members could contribute to reach a common definition of injuries and, subsequently, a specific target to reduce them, by sharing their expertise and the information at their disposal.

Concluding the event, ASECAP Secretary-General Mr Kallistratos DIONELIS stated that "road safety is not just political symbolism, but a precious, high-quality product affecting roads, cars and drivers. Such a service needs to be provided to all through permanent cooperation between states and industry, using all the available knowledge and technologies of the real experts".

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Proceedings available shortly on [www.asecap.com](http://www.asecap.com)

#### **Notes to Editors:**

ASECAP is the European Association of operators of tolled road infrastructures. It gathers 20 national members managing more than 40.000 km of road networks. ASECAP's 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.

