

Citizens' summary

EU road safety guidelines 2011-20

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

- Despite success through previous EU programmes, European roads are still far from safe – in 2009, **35,000 people died** in traffic accidents and over **1.7 million were injured**

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

The new EU road safety guidelines would aim to **cut European road deaths by 50%** by 2020.

To do so, they would seek to **make users, vehicles and infrastructure safer** through a mix of measures – national cooperation, sharing best practice, research and studies, awareness campaigns and in some cases possibly regulation.

Specifically this would involve:

- encouraging road users to drive more safely by creating a European **road safety education and training strategy**
- implementing EU-wide road safety legislation to ensure **all EU nationals are treated equally** when traffic rules are broken
- encouraging EU countries to **apply safety regulations to rural roads** that are already in operation for main roads and tunnels
- **recognition of technical inspections** in all EU countries (e.g. if your car passes an MOT in the UK, this would automatically be valid in other EU countries)
- making **vulnerable road users – especially motorcyclists** – safer by improving communication between authorities and road users, and introducing periodic inspections of motorbikes, mopeds, etc.
- improving **tools for collecting and analysing accidents**, to improve monitoring of road safety progress in EU countries and provide accurate data for developing new road safety measures

WHY IS THE EU TAKING ACTION?

- To **build on past success** – over **78 000 lives were saved** through the EU's 2001-10 road safety programme
- Road safety **problems are common to all EU countries** – the EU can help national governments work together and share data.

WHEN ARE THE EU ROAD SAFETY GUIDELINES LIKELY TO COME INTO EFFECT?

Gradually between **2011** and **2020**.