



## ROAD SAFETY IN THE EU

In 2001, the European Union set itself the ambitious objective of reducing by 50% the number of people killed on the roads by 2010. But in recent years the fatalities have fallen only slowly, from 54 000 in 2004 to around 40 000 in the most recent statistics. This result falls far short of the target fixed for 2010.

### **The S&D Group has introduced a new draft law to dramatically reduce the number of people killed on European roads.**

Studies show that drivers outside their country of residence account for a disproportionately high number of road traffic accidents, particularly as regards speeding. Sanctions imposed for offences committed outside the driver's country of residence are poorly enforced, particularly for offences automatically recorded by the radar systems now widespread on European roads. This relative impunity undermines road safety by encouraging drivers not to respect road traffic rules in other countries.

In response to a request from the Socialist & Democrat Group, the European Commission tabled proposals for a law on the cross-border enforcement of sanctions linked to road safety and an S&D Member was appointed *Rapporteur* (i.e., the European Parliament's chief draughts(wo)man)<sup>1</sup>:

The highest fatalities are caused by:

- speeding
- drink-driving
- failure to wear a seatbelt
- failure to stop at red lights.

In 2011, the European Parliament adopted the legislative text to ensure penalties against cross-border drivers who commit these offences are enforced.

### **The S&D wants ECall: A public EU-wide 112 emergency service for citizens**

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<sup>1</sup> [Directive 2011/82/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 facilitating the cross-border exchange of information on road safety related traffic offences](#), OJ L 288, 5.11.2011, p. 1-15

The S&D group is fighting for the mandatory deployment of a pan-European eCall service as one of the high priority technologies and services for reducing road fatalities and the severity of road injuries.

The aim of the in-vehicle eCall system is to ensure automatic notification of the emergency services in case of a serious accident. Such a system is a UE priority included in the UE Road Safety Action Programme from 2002.

The Socialist and Democrats consider that this eCall service that today is privately offered in certain luxury brands of vehicles and in limited territories should be a public 112-based emergency call system available in all vehicles and all countries.