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INFORMATION NOTE

From: Presidency

To: Council

Subject: EU Road Safety Day - Increasing Youth Awareness on Road Safety
(Nicosia, 25 July 2012)

– *Information from the Commission and the Presidency*

Delegations will find annexed a Presidency information note on the above-mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "Any Other Business" at the meeting of the Council (**Transport**, Telecommunications and Energy) on 29 October 2012.

EU Road Safety Day - Increasing Youth Awareness on Road Safety

(Nicosia, 25 July 2012)

Information by the Presidency

The Cyprus Presidency hosted the 4th European Road Safety Day in Nicosia, on the 25th of July 2012 under the theme “**Increasing Youth Awareness on Road Safety**” The Ministry of Communications and Works of the Republic of Cyprus together with the European Commission organized this event in cooperation with YOURS (Youth Organization for Road Safety).

The aim was to increase awareness on the sensitive issue of Road Safety among the young people (as road deaths constitute the biggest reason of young deaths in Europe and a big proportion of road crashes involve young road users) and to give the opportunity to the participants to exchange views and propose possible concrete actions on ways to improve youth road safety in a national and regional level.

The Cyprus Presidency aimed through the 4th Road Safety Day event to bridge EU and its neighbouring regions in regards to Youth Road Safety issues and to strengthen the EU Road Safety Action Programme with specific references and possible future actions addressed to young road users, in an attempt to turn young people from policy followers to policy formulators.

The conference comprised of different workshops geared at raising road safety awareness and creating a road safety culture among young people. Panelists included road safety experts from European institutions, representative from competent authorities from EU Member States and neighbouring countries.

The need for life-long learning through education and training and the significance of establishing mutual respect and cooperation between the police and the young people was emphasized. The conference also addressed risky behaviours such as alcohol, drugs, speeding as well as the vulnerability of road users such as motorcyclists and cyclists.

The 4th European Road Safety Day provided an invaluable platform to discuss and exchange best practices and most importantly, to raise awareness of the dangers of irresponsible driving and of the importance of wearing seatbelts.

The conference conclusions and recommendations as presented by the European Commission in its *Road Safety Newsletter* in September provide a useful tool for national governments and the EU for improving youth road safety on a national, regional and European level.
