

28 March 2017

## **Europe's Road Safety Figures Disappoint**

First published on [www.WorldHighways.com](http://www.WorldHighways.com)

Europe's road safety is failing to improve despite a string of measures introduced in recent years. The European Commission has published new data showing that deaths on EU roads fell by just 2% last year. This followed a 1% increase in road deaths during 2015.

According to the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) analysis, road deaths will now need to fall by 11.5%/year in order to meet the EU target of cutting deaths by half in the decade to 2020.

Commenting on the publication of the latest figures, Antonio Avenoso, Executive Director of the European Transport Safety Council said, "With around 500 deaths on EU roads every week, a figure that has hardly budged in three years, bold action from the EU and member states is long overdue."

He continued, “EU minimum vehicle safety standards have not been updated since 2009. A plan to require carmakers to install life-saving technologies such as automated emergency braking, overridable intelligent speed assistance and passenger seat belt reminders in all cars was postponed last month until March 2018, and even then will face several years before the changes are implemented. Every day of delay will mean more avoidable deaths.

Member states also need to reprioritise action on enforcement, infrastructure safety improvements and measures to make pedestrians and cyclists safer on our roads. Road deaths and serious injuries devastate lives and cost the European economy billions every year.”