



EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR ROAD SAFETY IN THE ARMED FORCES

Newsletter nr. 1/2010

THE CONGRESS IN AUSTRIA IN GOOD PROGRESS

I'm happy that the planning of the next ECRAF Congress in September 2010 in Austria is in good progress and in fact is ahead of the fixed schedule. I'm convinced that the cultural program set up by the Austrian Armed Forces will make a memorable frame around the 9th ECRAF Congress, says President Oddvar Haagensen after his return to Norway.

The meeting took place in Wolfgang's office in MoD in Vienna 26th January this year.

The purpose of the meeting was to go through the Congress- and cultural program included practical details of the coming event. Haagensen concludes that the actual issues and dates are fixed, and the program will be ready for printing in few days. Haagensen thanks Wolfgang for a nice work with the preparations of the ECRAF Congress.



An effective meeting day at the Austrian MoD. From left to right: Oddvar Haagensen, Wolfgang Lachet and Leif Agnar Ellevset

HUNGARY WILL INCREASE ITS ECRAF ACTIVITIES



From left Oddvar Haagensen, Lt. Colonel Eng Peter Szabados and Captain Ernő Enisz.

The meeting between ECRAF and the Hungarian Armed Forces In Budapest 27. January this year was both positive and interesting.

President Oddvar Haagensen presented the last ECRAF updates and the Hungarian Armed Forces informed about the actual road safety situation.

The Hungarian Armed Forces was satisfied with the new ECRAF, and confirmed that they will increase their ECRAF activities. Hungary will consider participation in working groups and other activities.

President Oddvar Haagensen underlines that he is very satisfied that Hungary also confirmed that they want to play an active role in getting new members from the region.

ECRAF MEETS EU

ECRAF will meet EU Military Staff in Brussels 3rd March this year. ECRAF has in the same connections asked for a meeting with the EU Road Safety Unit. Other meetings are also under planning.



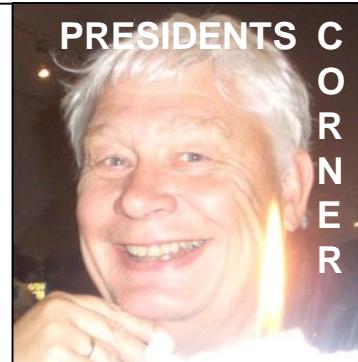


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Dear ECRAF friends,

It is our vision that ECRAF should aspire to be the foremost independent institution recognized across Europe for the best practice within the military environment to prevent road traffic accidents and injuries whether on operations or off duty. The ECRAF Strategic Document 2009 gives the direction how to achieve this ambiguous goal. ECRAF shall develop to be a road safety competence centre for all European Armed Forces, and one of the tools is to develop an active and coherent communication strategy within nations. In our modern world communication, and chairing information, is of vital importance.

The ECRAF WEB Site is one of the tools we can use to chair information. It is also important how the information is presented at the WEB Site. In order to be recognized across Europe as the foremost independent Road Safety organisation in the Armed Forces, the quality of the WEB Site is vital. I am proud to report that our new and reconstructed WEB Site went on air Sunday 24 February 2010 thanks to my Policy Secretary Leif Agnar Ellevset and the former ECRAF President Holger Voss. Without their dedicated work it had not been possible to establish a new and professional WEB Site.



Even with modern and efficient communication means like the Internet, it is still important to talk directly to each other. As the President of ECRAF, my most important task is to visit member nations and national delegates. The outcome of direct communication between individuals cannot be overestimated. My first visit as the ECRAF President I did 26 and 27 of February 2010 to Vienna and Budapest, and I am very happy, and humble, for the hospitality and openness Leif Agnar and I experienced during this visits. A great thanks to Wolfgang and Ernö. I will continue to have this direct communication with nations and organisations and use that opportunity to promote ECRAF and the important work done by all national delegates. It is a Norwegian expression saying that you get the best overview from the top of the mountain. It is my belief that it is important to bring as many as possible to the top of the mountain – to get the best overview. Let me put some pressure to all friends of ECRAF to use the opportunity ECRAF gives to chair information and best practice across nations.

Best regards 

What does the economic depression has to do with traffic safety?

Maj. Y. Ron, Isreali-Air-Force Safety-Center

Usually we consider times of economic recession as problematic times: people earn less money, some of them loose their job or business, the pressure is high and the moral is low. But, does the economic recession effect also traffic safety and life-expectancy?

In many countries in the western world 2009 was a relatively 'good' year, in which a decrease in traffic accidents and fatalities was observed.

Some explanations have been provided: a cultural improvement in the driver's awareness, and some technological improvements including ABS, air-bags, safer roads etc, but these explanations cannot explain a rate of decrease as observed, for example, between 2008 and 2009.

Tapia Granados, a researcher at the [U-M Institute](#) for Social Research has conducted a study in which he tried to analyze the relations between economic growth/ recession and life expectancy and mortality.

The researchers analyzed rates of mortality rates due to six main causes of death . including motor-vehicle traffic mortalities.

The study shows that downturns in economic activity may have overall beneficial effects on the population, even if becoming unemployed has adverse health consequences for a given person . and that

economic depressions results in a decrease in mortalities due to traffic accidents.

If you are interested in more information, please contact the author.

EDITORIAL

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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the ECRAF newsletter will come in April 2010. Contributions must be received within end of March.

