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COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION

Exchange of experiences in the field of road safety

Transmitted by the Government of the Czech Republic

Programme of Action to Increase Road Traffic Safety in the Czech Republic

By decision No. 681 of 19 October 1998, the Government of the Czech Republic approved the Programme of Action to Increase Road Traffic Safety. The Programme was prepared by a group of experts from the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the police force and various non-governmental organizations. It is valid for the period 1999-2001 and its goal is to reduce the number of fatalities by 5 per cent annually.

The Programme of Action consists of system measures including: increased involvement of non-governmental bodies and the mass media, intensification of road safety research, and better coordination of road safety work at the national, regional and local levels.

The Programme of Action also introduces specific measures to be introduced and/or implemented by various bodies, e.g.:

- intensified law enforcement (especially speeding and wearing of seatbelts), including automatic law enforcement devices;

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- intensification of road safety campaigns against speeding, not giving way, drinking and driving and illegal overtaking;
- implementation of local traffic engineering schemes, including traffic management systems and promotion of the use of public transport;
- preparation of new traffic laws taking into account effective road safety measures (e.g. penalty point system, mandatory use of child restraint devices);
- promotion of further training and education of drivers;
- improvement of road signing and marking;
- introduction of a road safety audit;
- improvement of road safety education in schools of various levels;
- assuring the flow of information to drivers from the Centre for Traffic Information.

The above-mentioned measures are directly addressed to the bodies responsible, e.g. Ministry of the Interior (police force), Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Education, etc.

The Programme of Action is expected to be evaluated by the Czech Governmental Council for Road Traffic Safety every six months and a final evaluation will be made at the end of the period covered and submitted to the Government. The Action Programme will be followed up by the System Programme on Road Traffic Safety which is currently under preparation.
