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Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
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EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES IN THE FIELD OF ROAD SAFETY

Transmitted by the Government of France

Addendum 1

MAIN RECENT ROAD SAFETY MEASURES IN FRANCE

The French Parliament has adopted the Road Safety Act No. 99-505 of 18 June 1999. This Act comprises four sections:

1. Supervision of driving instruction:

The conditions of access to and practice of the profession of driving instructor have been reinforced with a view to improving the quality of training and guarantees to learners.

2. The training of learner drivers who have committed serious offences:

They are required to take a course to induce awareness of the causes and consequences of road accidents in the event of serious offences during their first two years as drivers.

The educational purpose of the course is to prevent the repetition of offences while also permitting the recovery of licence points.

GE.99-22430 (E)

3. Combating dangerous behaviour and equality before the law:

The financial liability of the vehicle-owner is established in the event of offences identified by a non-intercepting automatic device when the actual driver committing the offence has not been identified.

The recurrence of excessive speeding within the same year (in excess of 50 km/h in relation to permitted speeds) becomes an established offence; sanctions may take the form of a fine of as much as 25,000 francs or three months' imprisonment.

4. The implementation of progressive measures aimed at combating driving while under the influence of drugs:

Drivers involved in a fatal accident will be screened for illegal substances. The introduction of screening will contribute to know-how, and, when the time comes, provide a basis for measures of specific prohibition and repression as regards driving while under the influence of drugs.

This bill is part of a general road safety policy directed at improving the efficiency of checks and sanctions and road safety training and education, with particular stress on young people and prevention.

Road safety will be a major national cause in the year 2000.

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