

## **New EU Project on Medical Testing for Drivers**

CIECA has added yet another EU project to the string of projects it is already managing for the European Commission (NovEV, TEST and a secretariat role in MERIT). The new project focuses on medical testing for driving licence holders. The European Commission is keen to update Annex 3 (Fitness to Drive) of the EU Driving Licence Directive and this project is one step towards that goal.

The project, currently named MEDRIL, will include medical testing for samples of drivers, across all ages, in Finland, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Spain. These four countries represent the wide range of medical testing criteria across Europe at the moment.

Specifically, the European Commission wants to know what percentage of the population are afflicted by medical problems which can affect road safety (poor eyesight, diabetes, epilepsy, alcohol and drug abuse, dementia, etc). In order to carry out this research scientifically, a standardised medical form will be used in all 4 countries by specially trained doctors. The project will also bring together experts from around Europe to discuss practical ways of testing drivers with specific medical problems.

MEDRIL was born in March 2004 and will end in March 2006. For more information, please contact Nick Sanders or Martina Hendrix at the CIECA Project Office.