

42nd CIECA CONGRESS
Assessment for novice driver safety
Budapest, 4 June 2010

Opening by CIECA President Sonja Sporstøl

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,
Dear Mr President, Dear representatives of the European Commission, Dear Members,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to CIECA's 42nd Congress on assessment for novice driver safety. I am delighted to see you so numerous here today in this city full of history and tradition. I would like to thank our host, the National Transport Authority NTA, which has made elaborate preparations to ensure a smooth organisation of the Congress and a delightful stay for all of us.

It lies within CIECA's tradition as a platform organisation, to continuously exchange about best practices and new developments in the field of driver training, testing and licensing. Over the last year several countries have been working on new developments in the area of assessment in the practical driving test. Special meetings were convened and a workshop on the subject is planned to be held later on this year. The idea is to identify and assess competences in the driving test that novice drivers need in order to be safe drivers and thereby moving towards a more holistic assessment approach which is also more realistic. This year's Congress theme, focusing on assessment with a view to improving novice driver safety, is therefore an excellent opportunity to set the context for further exchange and gather expert views in this area.

Today we will hear about assessment of attitudes, risk and last but not least the assessment in the theory and practical test.

The right attitudes are the backbone of safe driving - a crucial element which needs to be addressed in driver education. I am looking forward to hear more about the link between assessment and education from our experts.

We all know that young people are over-represented in accidents and in Europe more than 6,500 young people were killed in 2008¹. A mixture of inexperience and overestimation of one's driving abilities often proves to be fatal in the age group of 18 – 24-year- old male drivers. Any effort to better prepare learner drivers for the challenges on the road and improve their self-assessment abilities is an important step towards saving lives. In light of this background later on today we will therefore specifically look at risk and how assessment can contribute to the reduction of risk for young drivers.

And finally, valid and reliable theory and practical testing is one of CIECA's core competences. As a driving test association our members are in most cases

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/road_safety/pdf/statistics/2008_age.pdf

exclusively in charge of the driving test and have been constantly putting a lot of effort into the development of an even more realistic assessment at the test and recently included a whole series of new elements in their driving tests. This is why this afternoon will be dedicated to developments in assessment in the theory and practical tests across countries.

Trevor Wedge, the Chief Driving Examiner of the Driving Standards Agency in Great Britain who is also the Chairman of CIECA's Expert Advisory Group will lead you through today's programme.

Now, I would like to invite you to sit back and listen to our expert speakers sharing their experiences from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Norway and Sweden.

I wish you a very productive and pleasant day.