



OUR GOALS OF SAFER DRIVERS BY TRAINING AND TESTING

Malta, 27 May 2010

Opening by CIECA President Sonja Sporstøl

Good morning ladies and gentlemen,

Dear Mr Chief Executive Officer (Mr Portelli)

Dear representative of the European Commission,

Dear Members,

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to CIECA's 43rd Congress I am delighted to see you so numerous here today in Malta. I would like to thank our host, Transport Malta, 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.

The title of today's Congress will be "achieving our goals of safer drivers by training and testing". In this context it focuses on the cornerstones for driver training and education which are necessary to improve road safety.

The congress will try to explain the links between the elements in a driver training and/or testing system which follows the following logic:

The goals of the curriculum must be clearly set out and should primarily be met in training and education. Therefore content and methods need to be identified to meet these goals. The test, core business of CIECA, finally is a means to ensure that basic standards have been reached in training, education and practice.

CIECA members are indeed in most cases exclusively in charge of the driving test but some of them are also responsible for training and set the standards for driving instructors as well as their

training. There is a clear relationship between training and testing as the test is used to set the agenda for training.

What will we be addressing today?

The first theme of today is driver Licence acquisition training

Being the first step for learner drivers on their way to licence acquisition this part of the process should be given special attention. There are strong links between the driving test and training as in many countries the driving test is used to set the training agenda.

Recent research and projects have shown that attitudes and behaviour play a crucial role in terms of novice driver safety. However, it is difficult to assess attitudes in a test and it can be more efficiently addressed better in education.

Many countries base their testing and training on a curriculum or syllabus, not all of which can be tested. One way of addressing this is going to be a stronger link between training and testing.

We shall hear more about those links between training and testing, innovative training and assessment measures addressing the problematic, views on an ideal training & testing system and contributions to it as well as different training approaches in general.

The second theme is the training of examiners

The training of examiners is clearly one of CIECA's core basic interests as the association of testing organisations. Annex IV of the 3rd European Driving License Directive sets out for the first time minimum requirements for driving examiner standards, their initial training, quality assurance and periodic training. CIECA carried out a project with its Members in this context and it is time to review the next steps. We are therefore delighted that we have received contributions from France and Germany.

Today's third theme is about setting the standards for trainers and their training. We have received an interesting contribution from our Partner EFA who will give a presentation about driving instructor standards in Europe.

And finally Post-test training, including 2nd phase training, exists in several CIECA member countries. How does post-test training link in with the content of the first practical driving test or other risk factors following later in life? What about the effects, the evaluation, considerations of the different countries in this context? What is the optimum system and what are the effective training steps? What about post-test training linked to graduated licensing systems? What about post-test training of different nature such as for example voluntary training for elderly drivers, remedial driver training for drivers who display weaknesses? These are some of the questions which will be covered this afternoon.

Trevor Wedge, Chairman of CIECA's Expert Advisory Group will act as a moderator for today's programme.

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

I wish you a very informative and pleasant day.