

# DRINK DRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Safe and Sober Poland | Warsaw, 23 January  
2025



Antonio Avenoso, ETSC Executive Director



- ✓ A science based approach to road safety
- ✓ Secretariat in Brussels
- ✓ 60 member organisations from across Europe:



- ✓ More than 200 experts contributing to ETSC's work
- ✓ The European Commission, Member Organisations, Member States and corporate sponsors are funding our work



Monitoring EU transport  
safety policy



Road Safety  
Performance Index  
(PIN)

Ranking EU countries'  
performances

EU ROAD SAFETY  
EXCHANGE



SAFE  
SOBER &

SMART   
SOBER MOBILITY ACROSS ROAD TRANSPORT

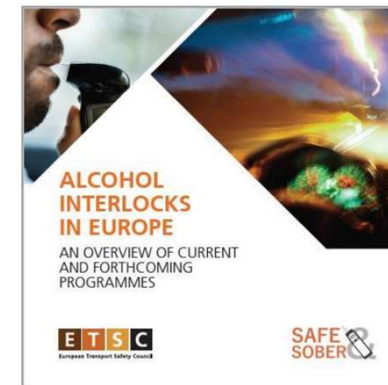


DRUG DRIVING



17 years of raising awareness on Alcohol Interlocks through:

- 33 national events since 2008 (21 countries in Europe covered)
- 2 EU events in the European Parliament
- Regular participation in the Alcohol Interlock Symposium
- 1 report on Alcohol Interlock programmes in the EU
- 1 EU map on updated info on AI offender programmes in the EU



# 20,418

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people died in road traffic  
in the EU in 2023

# 2,260

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people died in alcohol-related crashes  
in 2021 \*

*\*in 23 EU countries*

# DRINK-DRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



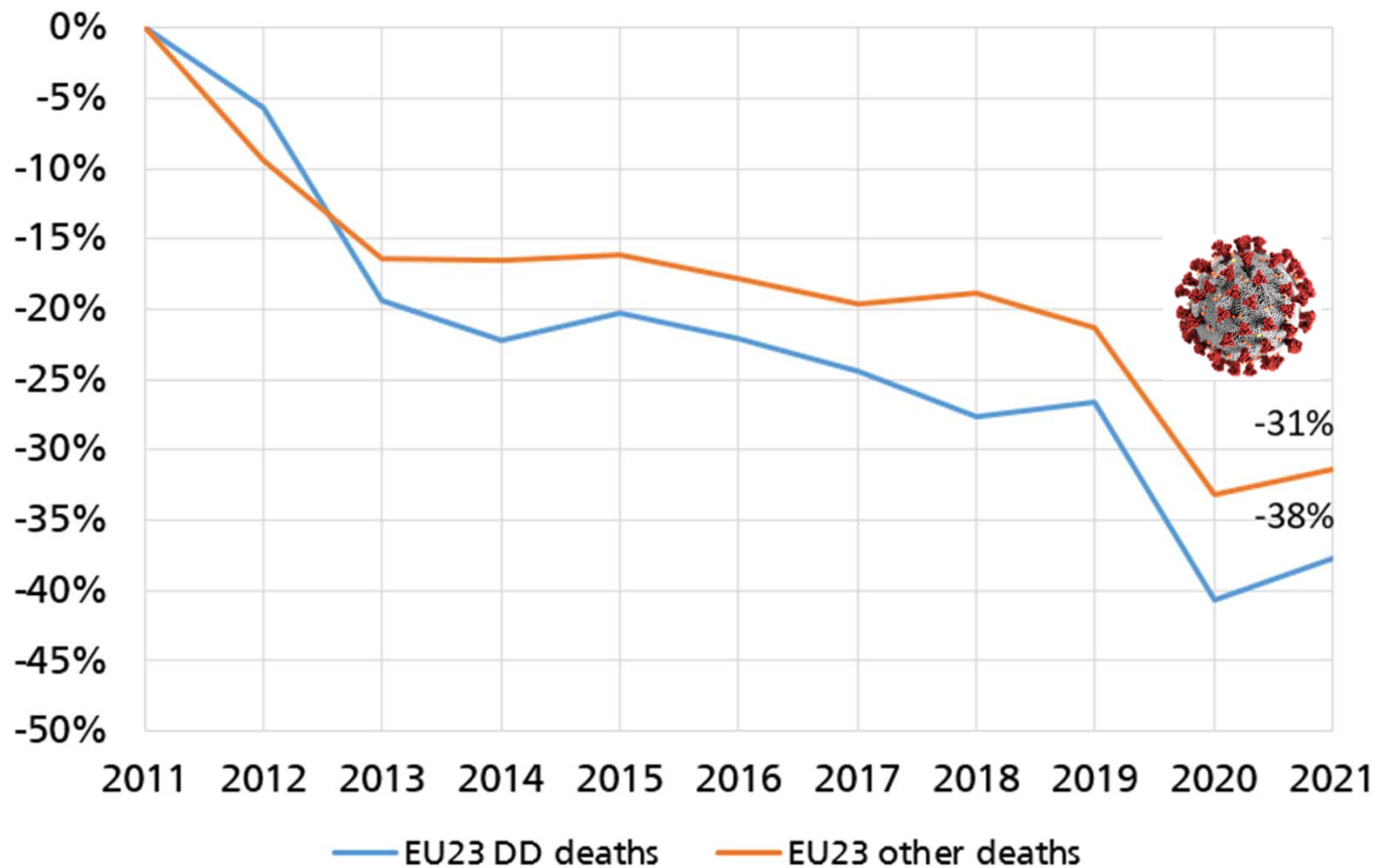
- Up to **1.5 - 2% of KM driven** in the EU are driven with an illegal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC);
- Of all road deaths in the EU, **25%** are alcohol-related;
- Risk factor in up to 40% of e-scooter deaths
- Alcohol related crashes are the **leading cause of death** in the age group 16-25

# DRINK-DRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

At least **4,000** deaths  
could have been  
prevented by eliminating  
drink driving

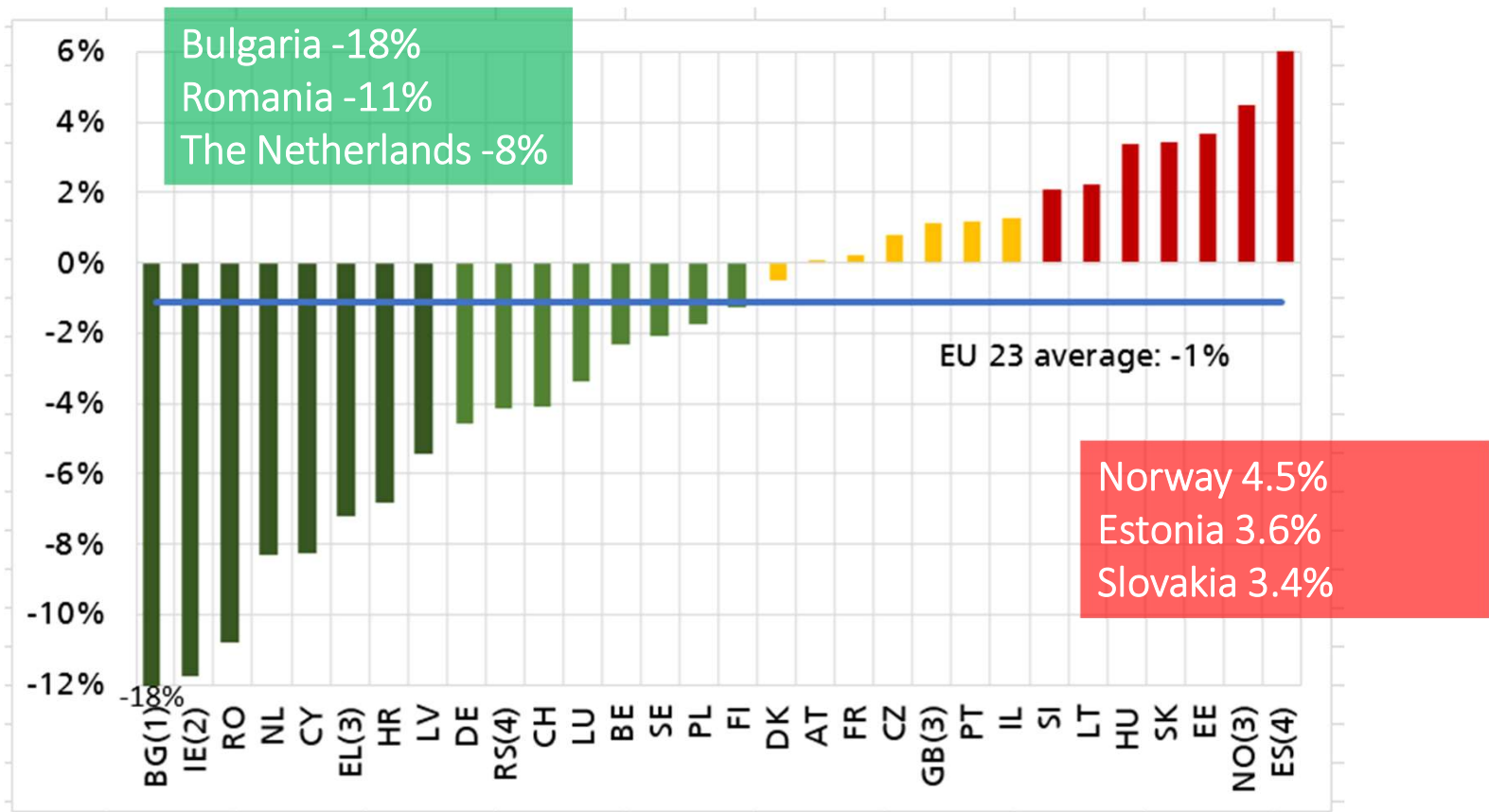


# DRINK DRIVING PROGRESS 2011-2021

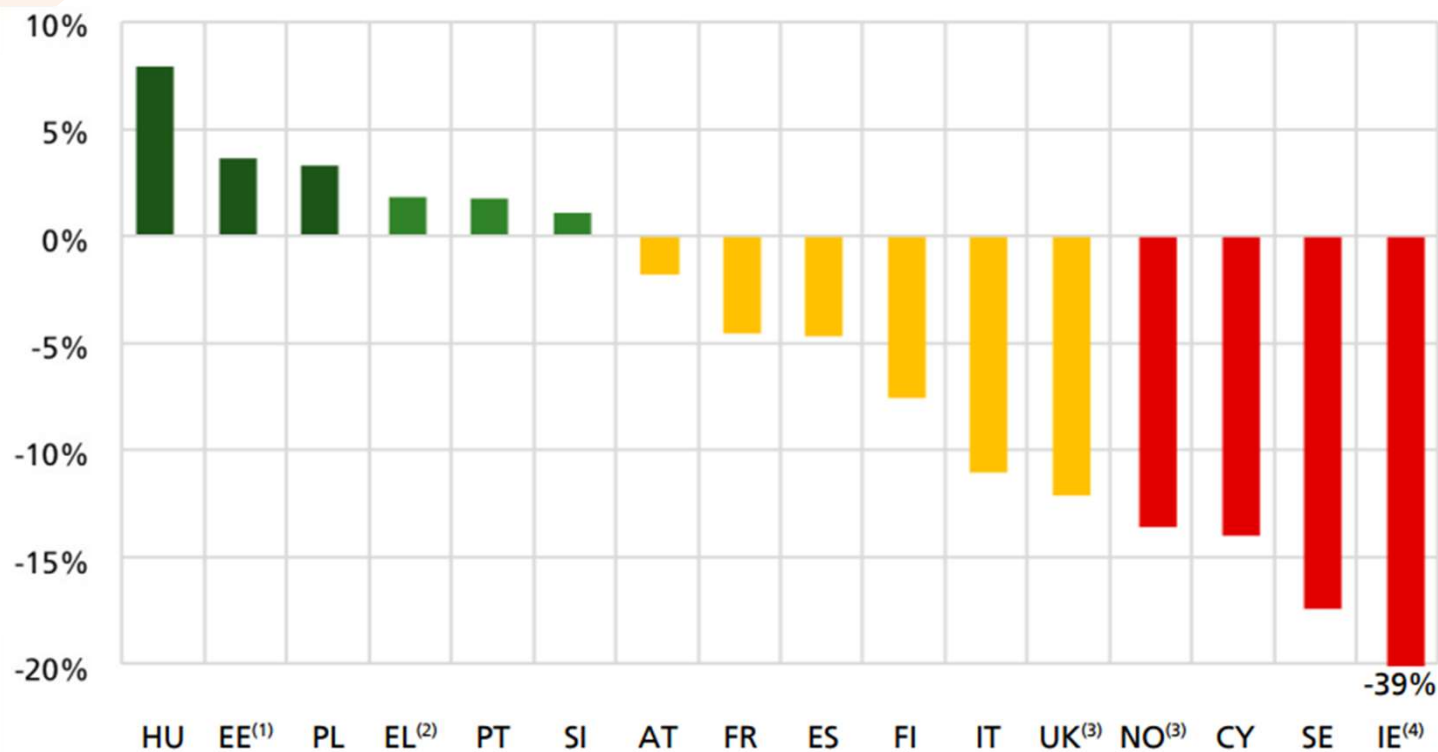


# PROGRESS IN TACKLING DRINK DRIVING 2011 – 2021

Difference between the average annual percentage change in deaths attributed to drink driving and corresponding change in other road deaths



# Drink-driving – alcohol breath checks (2011-2021)



Average annual change in the number of alcohol roadside breath checks per 1000 population over the period 2011-2021

# Drink-driving – alcohol breath checks (2011-2021)

[illegible]

# EFFECTIVE MEASURES



Lower Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limits;



Sanctions and enforcement;



Alcohol Interlocks (rehabilitation and commercial transport);



Education and campaigns

# ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS & REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

**10%** of all drink-driving offenders are involved in 2 / 3 of all alcohol-involved crashes



## Alcohol interlocks are:

- An effective measure for hard-core drink-driving offenders
- An effective prevention tool

## LEGISLATION NEEDED

To maximise the effect on road safety, alcohol interlock programmes for drink-driving offenders should be compulsory and placed under administrative law.

# STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

A. Effective programmes showed **positive impacts** such as:



- a) securing the jobs of people who relied on being able to drive for work;
- b) making drivers aware of their responsibilities;
- c) helping offenders remain integrated in society (although participation is sometimes perceived as a constraint);

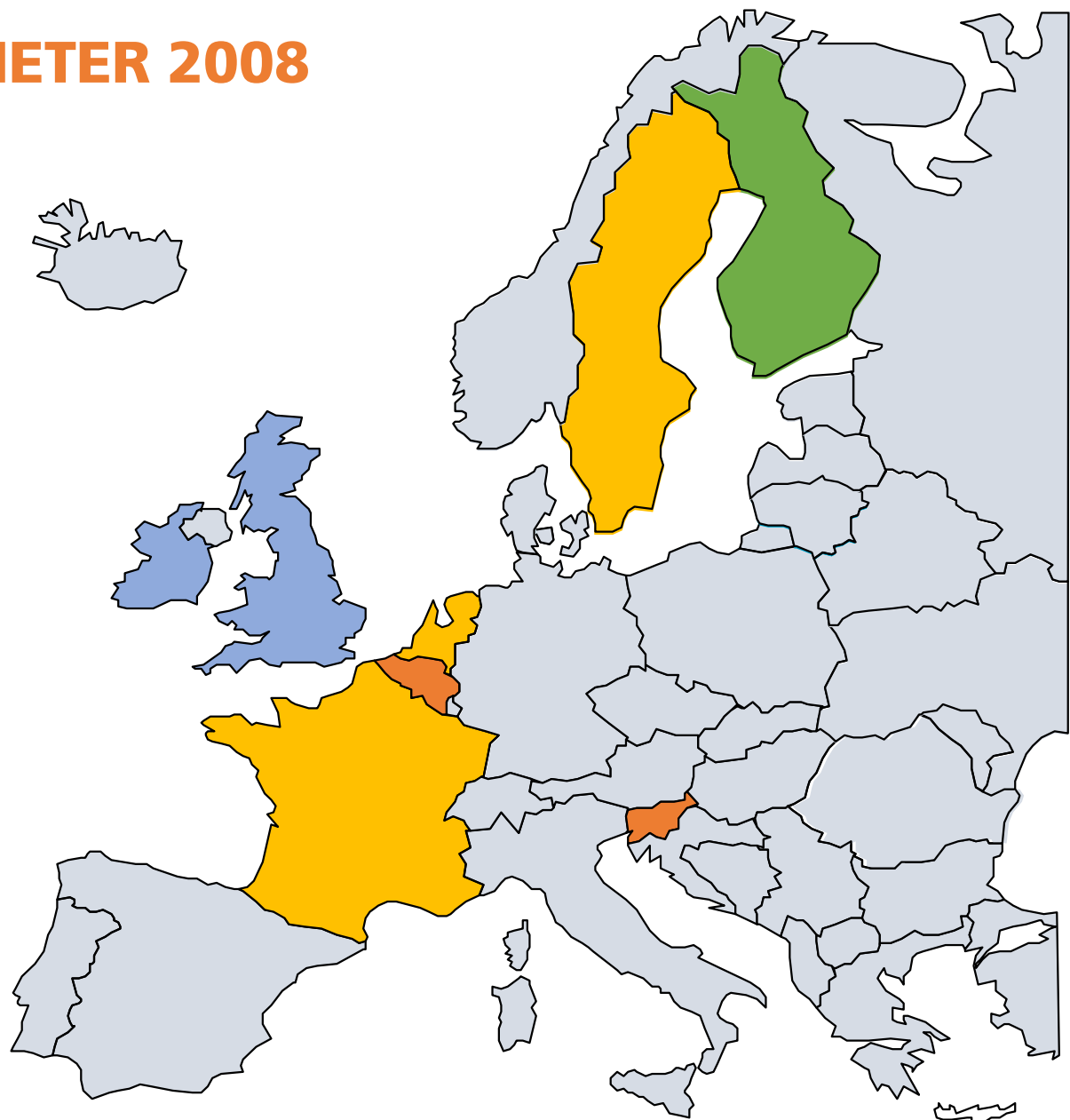


B. **Two key elements** for a successful programme:

- a) Rehabilitation measures
- b) Affordable costs

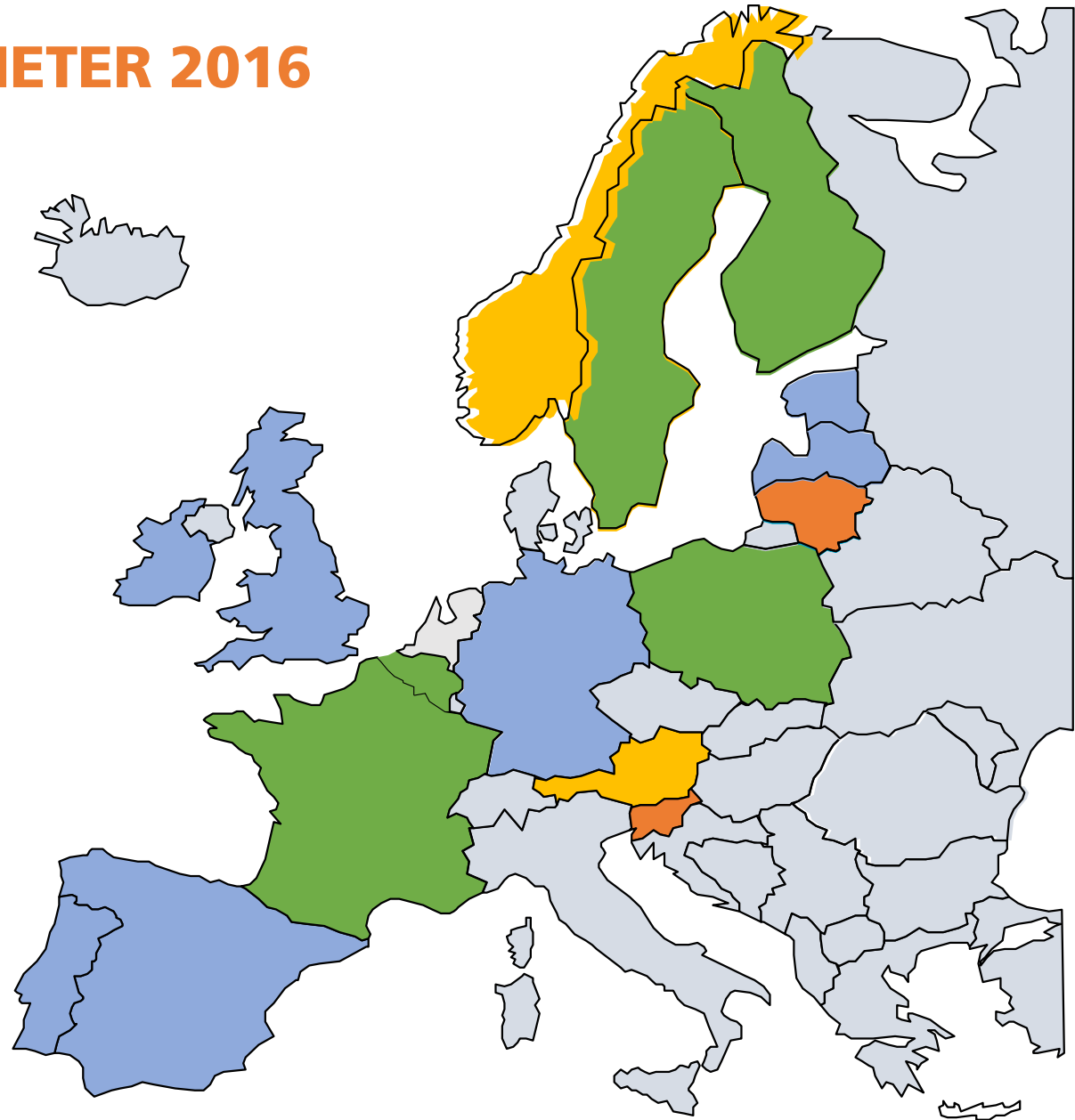
# ALCOHOL INTERLOCK BAROMETER 2008

- Voluntary basis
- Pilot project
- Legislation in discussion
- Legislation in force



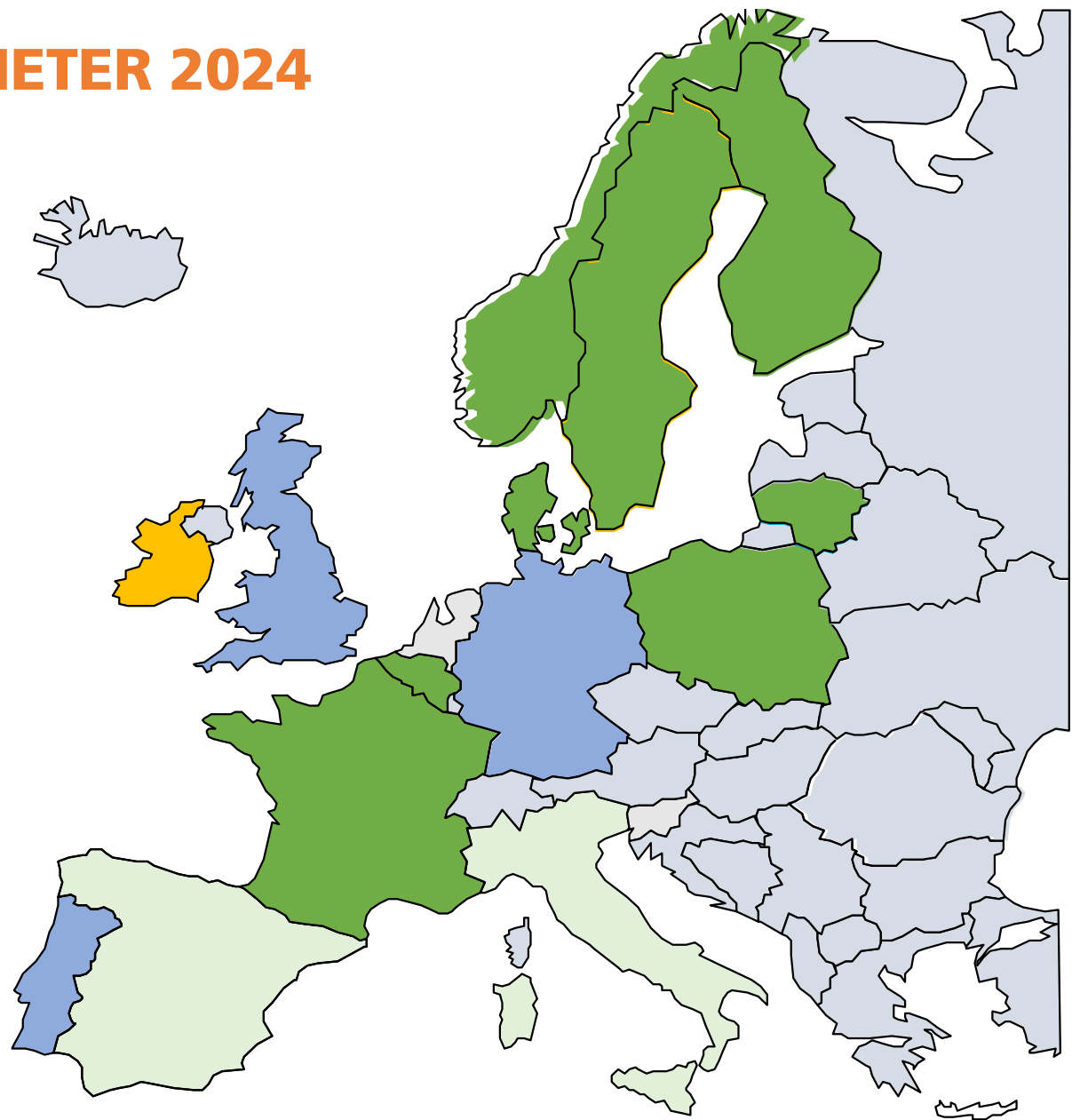
# ALCOHOL INTERLOCK BAROMETER 2016

- Voluntary basis
- Pilot project
- Legislation in discussion
- Legislation in force



# ALCOHOL INTERLOCK BAROMETER 2024

- Voluntary basis
- Pilot project
- Legislation in discussion
- Legislation in force



# ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS IN COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT



**TRANSPORTEZ  
TRANQUILLE**

Le 1<sup>er</sup> septembre 2015,  
**l'éthylotest anti-démarrage**  
et la ceinture de sécurité

sont OBLIGATOIRES dans tous les autocars.

N'attendez pas pour vous équiper en EAD  
[www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/ead2015](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/ead2015)

Le défaut d'équipement est une infraction

## Matthews scoop BBC into

Coach Hire Company's alcohol Interlock system featured on



■ Local Matthews promises demonstrating to BBC news from the alcohol interlock system works. Matthews, a coach hire company, was the subject of a BBC TV news feature where its alcohol interlock system was featured. Matthews is the only transport company in the world to have its own alcohol interlock system installed on every Matthews coach. The system is a coach vehicle under the influence of alcohol and not about speed driver's limit, and it is designed to ensure that the driver is sober and not under the influence of alcohol. Matthews Coach Hire has added the alcohol interlock system to all its coaches. Matthews is the only transport company in the world to have its own alcohol interlock system installed on every Matthews coach. The system is a coach vehicle under the influence of alcohol and not about speed driver's limit, and it is designed to ensure that the driver is sober and not under the influence of alcohol.



## Take a decisive step to prevent drink-driving in your company

Preventing drivers from turning on the motor if they are affected by alcohol, the Dräger alcohol is an efficient security tool as well as a great way for companies to send a signal of moral responsibility.

Although there is no law in Denmark for spring drivers to have a breath analyzer at work, it is highly recommended. Dräger alcohol has become a standard equipment for many companies. It is a small, portable device that can be used in any vehicle. It is a small, portable device that can be used in any vehicle. It is a small, portable device that can be used in any vehicle.

For more information, please visit [www.drager.com](http://www.drager.com)

This type of test has been made a legal requirement in several countries, in Sweden, for example. It is obligatory for people with a license to drink driving convictions. Dräger also produces breath analyzers used by police in several European countries. The analyser is based on an electrochemical sensor which is very precise. Dräger also offers a measuring device for the medical industry and for people who want to monitor their own drinking habits.

Dräger & Co. also makes Dräger's hand-held breath analyzer, which is a portable device. It is a small, portable device that can be used in any vehicle. It is a small, portable device that can be used in any vehicle.

For more information, please visit [www.drager.com](http://www.drager.com)

## Golden contract!

Coach Hire Company lands Olympic transport deal



■ Minutes for Transport, Tourism and Sport Lee Yvonneh pictured with Paul Matthews, Matthews Coach Hire Managing Director, and Lee Yvonneh, Secretary of the Olympic Games, in front of the Olympic bus. Matthews Coach Hire has been awarded the contract to provide transport for the Olympic Games. Matthews Coach Hire has been awarded the contract to provide transport for the Olympic Games.

## FORBRUG & LIV

Bolig Sundhed Digitalt Forbrug Biler Livsstil

SIN TRANSPORT 13. OKT. 2014 KL. 22.16

## Arriva: Busserne er begyndt at køre pænere

Antallet af 'hændelser' målt af sensorer i busserne er faldet med 67 procent.



In commercial vehicles as an extension of the vehicle safety systems and demonstrate the company's commitment to both driver and public safety.

## OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mandate the use of alcohol interlocks for professional drivers
- As a first step towards wider use of alcohol interlocks, legislate their use for repeat offenders and professional drivers
- Develop use of alcohol interlocks as part of rehabilitation programmes
- Allow people with an alcohol dependency to be included in alcohol interlock rehabilitation programmes, as long as it is combined with medical supervision

# SAFE AND SOBER – LATEST VIDEO CAMPAIGN



# FIND OUT MORE



European Transport Safety Council

[www.etsc.eu](http://www.etsc.eu)

 [@etsc\\_eu](https://twitter.com/etsc_eu)

Thank you for your attention!

Find out more



Interactive map on drink-driving policies online



Watch our Videos

