

# Safety Body Recommends 20mph Limits as an EU Standard for Residential Areas

A 20's Plenty for Us Press Release Dec 2014 [www.20splentyforus.org.uk/Prel/ETSC\\_20mph\\_call.pdf](http://www.20splentyforus.org.uk/Prel/ETSC_20mph_call.pdf)

**The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has recommended that the EU adopts a series of standard maximum speed limits. ETSC says 20mph should be EU wide in residential areas and those with high levels of pedestrians and cyclists.**

In the 'Mid Term Review of the European Commission's Road Safety Policy Orientations 2011-2020 Briefing Stakeholder Consultation Workshop' document, (17 Nov 2014)<sup>1</sup>, ETSC reflect upon the progress against the EU objective to reduce deaths by 50% by 2020 from 2010 levels.

The UK currently lags behind in EU league tables at reducing road deaths. More needs to happen in the UK in road danger reduction. The UK is under-performing, having only reduced road deaths by 10% 2010-13 (1,905-1,713) compared to the EU average of 18%.

Speed management is seen by ETSC as one of the key priority areas with the view that :-

***"Excessive speed is the single biggest contributory factor in road collisions resulting in death<sup>2</sup>. On average, a 1% reduction in the mean speed of traffic leads to a 2% reduction in injury accidents, a 3% in severe injury accidents and a 4% in fatal accidents<sup>3</sup>."***

And in order to address this ETSC say that the European Commission should:-

***"..encourage Member States to adopt a maximum 50km/h (30mph) in urban areas and a maximum 30km/h (20mph) in residential areas and areas with high levels of pedestrians and cyclists."***

An aging population is also recognised as a factor in raised road risk. While elderly people account for one sixth of European population, every fifth person killed in road traffic is 65 years old or over. Vulnerable road users are also disproportionately represented in deaths.

Rod King MBE, founder of 20's Plenty for Us said :-

***"30mph as a national urban limit is being rejected throughout the UK by most of our iconic cities and towns. 20mph (or 30km/h) is already being implemented by authorities with over 20% of the UK population. It is now seen as the right limit for residential streets and where motor vehicles mix with pedestrians and cyclists. This should be a wake-up call to UK central government to take a lead in responding by delivering this community enhancing initiative at a national level so that everyone in the UK can make their place a better place to be!"***

## 20's Plenty for Us

...making your place a better place to be



<sup>1</sup> <http://etsc.eu/wp-content/uploads/2014-11-rspo-midterm-review.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> ETSC (2008) Managing Speed Towards Safe and Sustainable Road Transport

<sup>3</sup> Nilsson 1982

20's Plenty For Us campaigns for a 20mph default speed limit in residential streets without physical calming.

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