

# DRINK DRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Safe and Sober Dublin | 19 January 2024



Antonio Avenoso  
Executive Director

# ETSC

- ✓ A science based approach to road safety
- ✓ Secretariat in Brussels
- ✓ 58 member organisations from across Europe. Two in Ireland:

- Road Safety Authority



- Health and Safety Authority



- ✓ 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



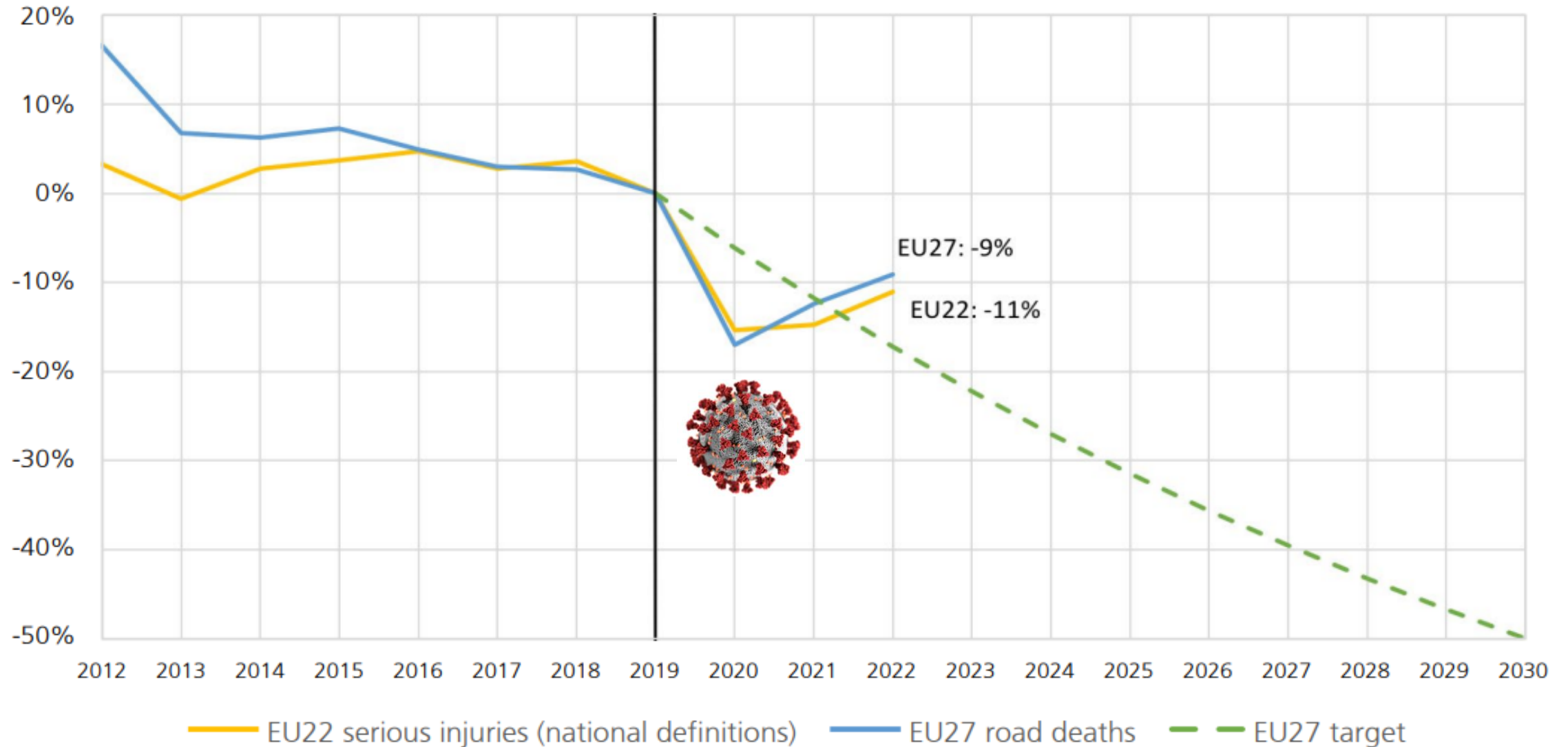
DRUG DRIVING

# 20,678

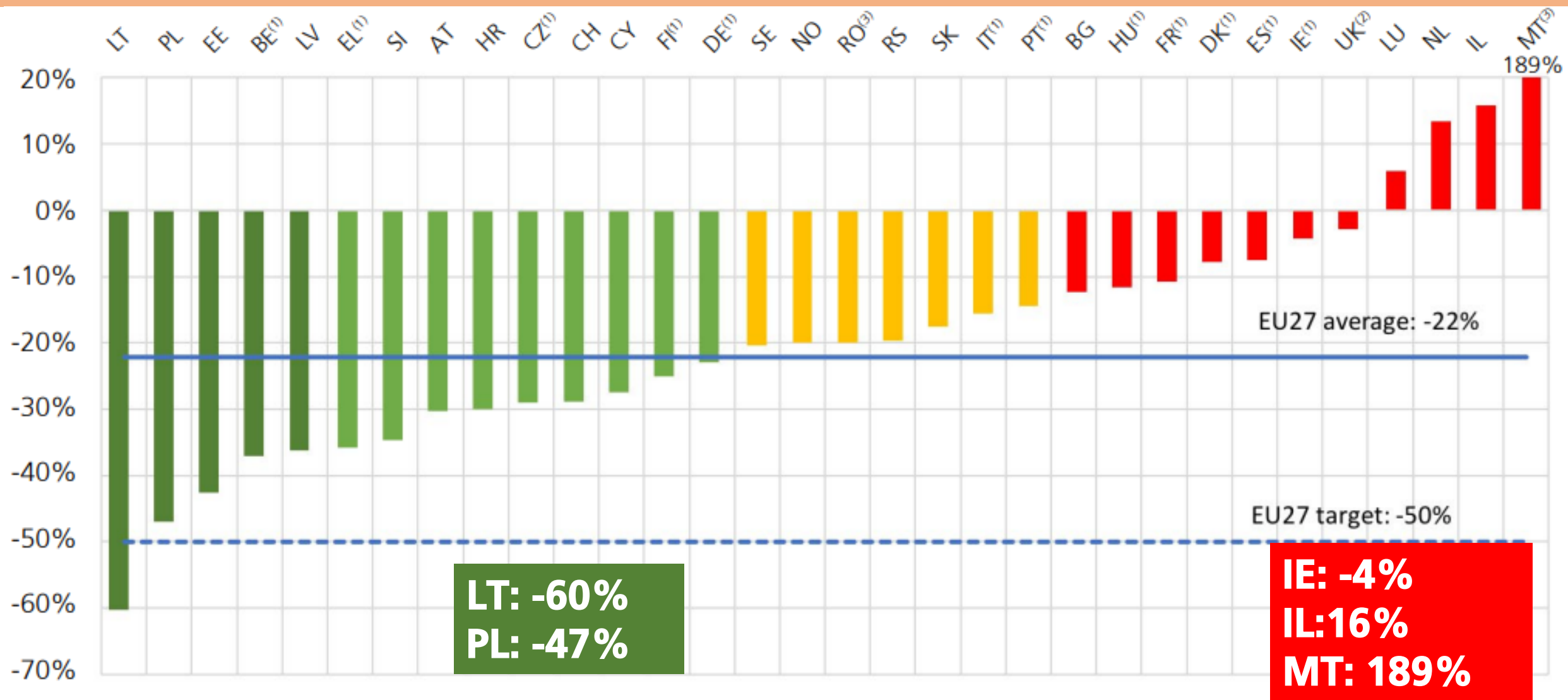
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people died in road traffic  
in the EU in 2022

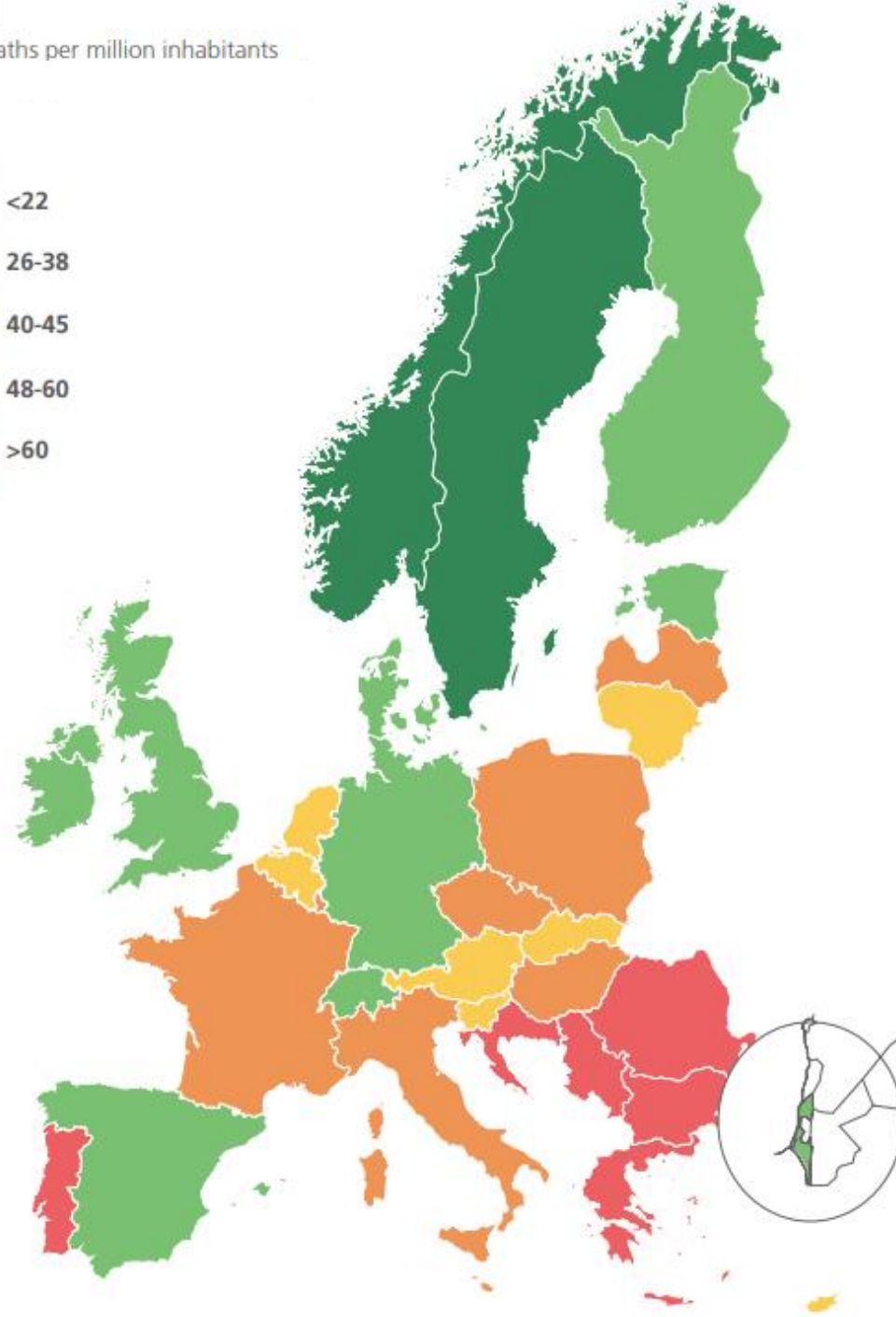
# ROAD SAFETY PROGRESS 2012-2022



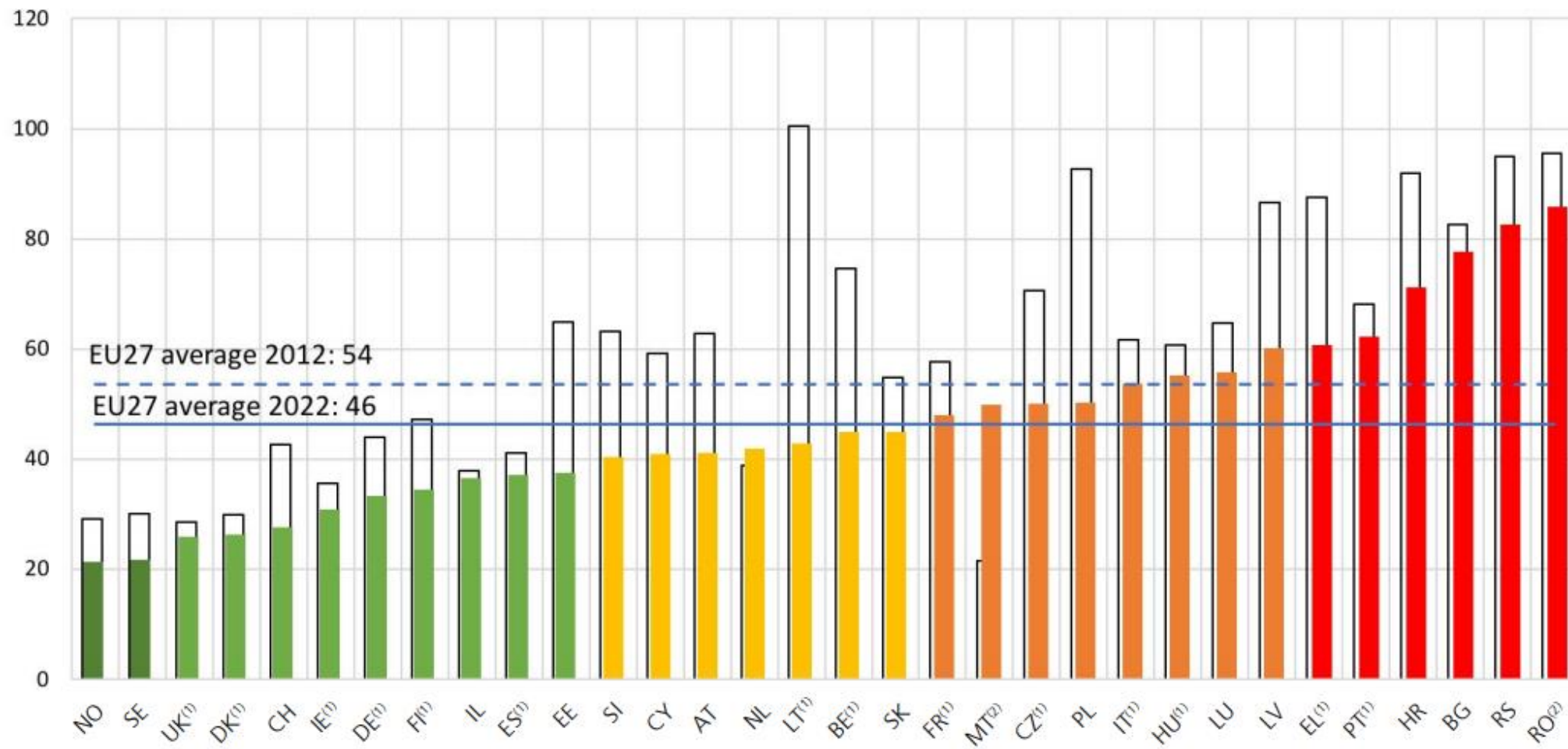
# PROGRESS 2012-2022



Road deaths per million inhabitants  
in 2022



# EU ROAD MORTALITY 2022 AND 2012



**NO: 21**  
**SE: 22**  
**IE: 36**

**RO: 86**  
**RS: 83**

□ Mortality 2012  
 ■ Mortality 2022  
 ■ Mortality 2022  
 ■ Mortality 2022  
 ■ Mortality 2022  
■ Mortality 2022  
 ■ Mortality 2022  
 — EU mortality 2022  
 - - - EU mortality 2012



# DRINK-DRIVING: FROM MYTH TO SCIENCE

XLVI — ANNONCES

L'ILLUSTRATION

4 OCTOBRE 1935

" UNE BONNE RECOMMANDATION "



NE PRENEZ JAMAIS LA ROUTE AUSSITOT APRES  
UN BON REPAS SANS UN PETIT VERRE DE LA MARQUE  
MONDIALE

# COINTREAU

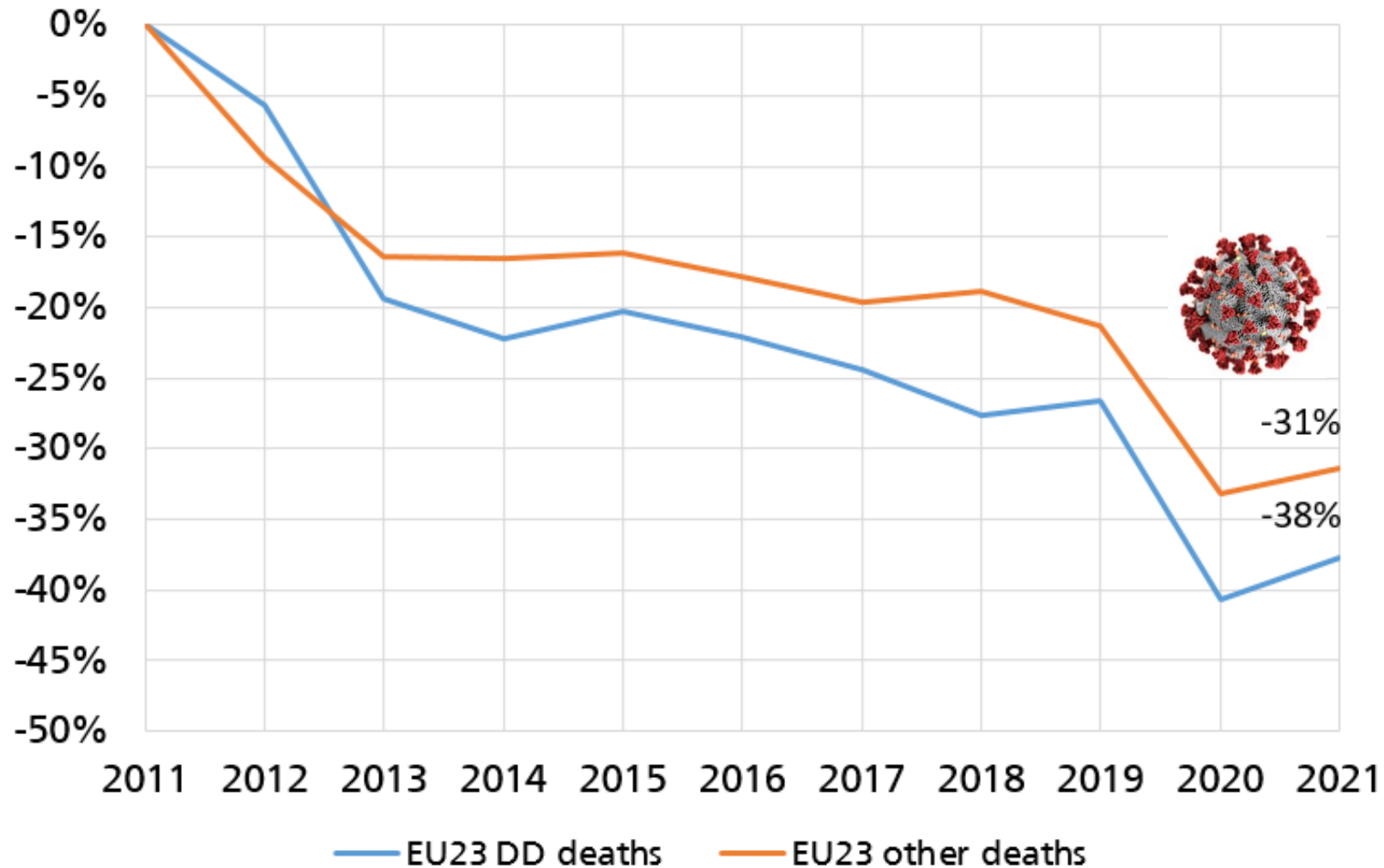
L I Q U E U R

# DRINK-DRIVING IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



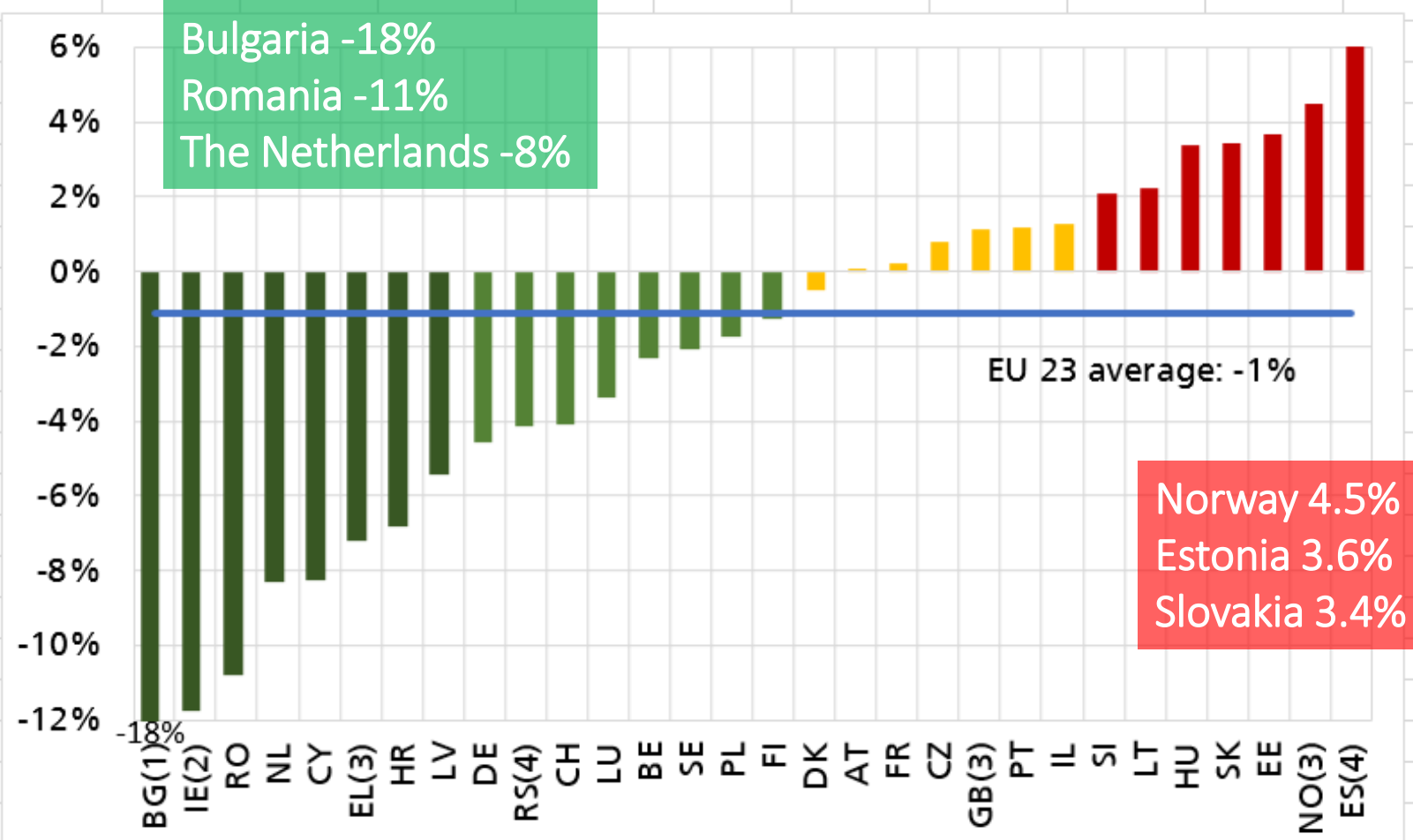
- Up to **1.5 - 2% of KM driven** in the EU are driven with an illegal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC);
- Of all road deaths in the EU, **25%** are alcohol-related;
- Alcohol related crashes are the **leading cause of death** in the age group 16-25

# 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

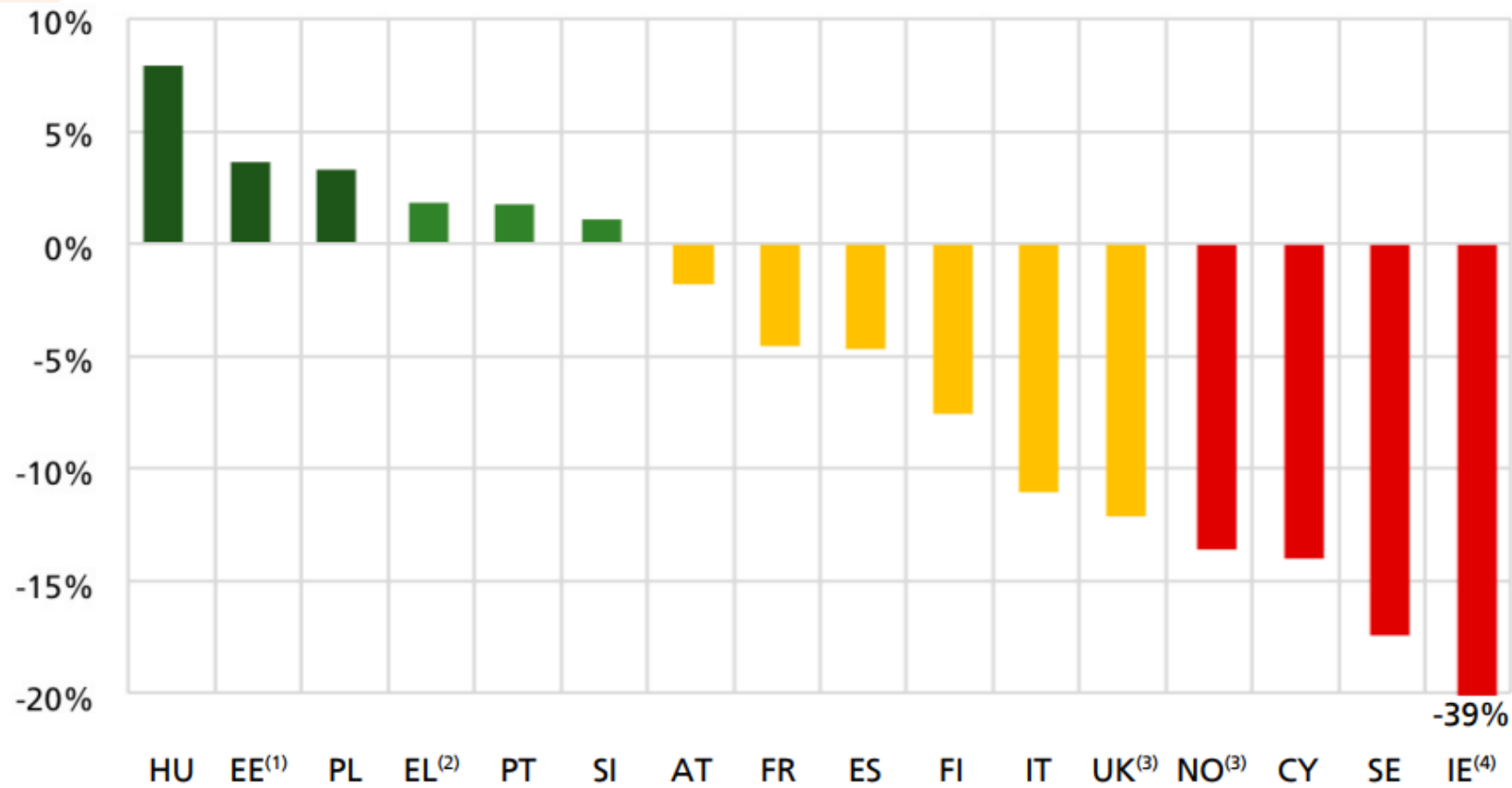


Bulgaria -18%  
Romania -11%  
The Netherlands -8%

Norway 4.5%  
Estonia 3.6%  
Slovakia 3.4%

EU 23 average: -1%

# 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)

	2021		2020		2019		2018		2017		2016		2011	
	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)	Roadside police tests per 1000 inhabitants	Proportion above the legal limit (in %)
EE	576	0.8%	566	0.9%	696	0.8%	584	0.9%	513	1.0%	656	0.8%	n/a	
PL	219	1.2%	177	1.5%	444	0.7%	434	0.6%	470	0.6%	473	0.6%	149	3.2%
SI	190	3.1%	172	3.2%	203	3.1%	171	3.3%	191	3.5%	142	3.7%	189	4.5%
HU	185	1.2%	173	1.3%	279	0.9%	298	1.0%	241	1.2%	174	1.5%	118	2.9%
PT	160	2.2%	126	1.9%	186	6.1%	172	2.2%	172	3.9%	167	2.7%	117	4.3%
AT	155	2.1%	137	2.1%	204	1.7%	197	1.6%	196	1.6%	192	1.7%	169	2.8%
FR	109	3.2%	108	3.2%	139	3.4%	145	3.4%	157	3.3%	153	3.1%	177	3.5%
FI	71	2.3%	78	2.2%	174	1.0%	253	0.8%	268	0.7%	277	0.7%	219	0.9%
SE	33	2.3%	40	2.1%	126	0.9%	117	0.9%	117	1.0%	122	1.0%	259	0.7%
CY	31	8.3%	49	9.0%	92	8.9%	102	9.0%	120	7.2%	105	7.9%	205	4.9%
IE <sup>(1)</sup>	18	0.6%	21	0.4%	64	0.5%	65	0.5%	n/a					
NO	n/a		64	2.6%	180	0.8%	177	0.7%	211	0.6%	258	0.6%	358	0.3%
LT	n/a											83	5.1%	

# EFFECTIVE MEASURES



Lower Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limits;



Sanctions and enforcement;



**Alcohol Interlocks (rehabilitation and commercial transport);**



Education and campaigns

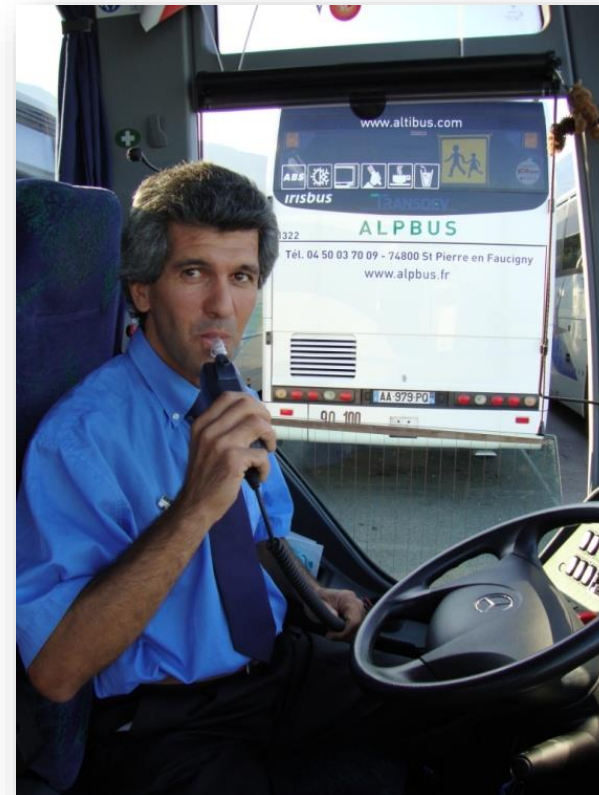
# ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS

## EUROPEAN MAP

- Offender programmes
- Cost-benefit analysis ongoing
- Feasibility study
- Law in preparation
- Programme ended due to legal technicalities<sup>12</sup>



**Increasingly used** across Europe for professional drivers and in rehabilitation programs for drink driving offenders





# EU GENERAL SAFETY REGULATION


- A standardised interface that facilitates the fitting of aftermarket alcohol interlock devices in motor vehicles required for all new type approved vehicles as of mid-2022 and all new vehicles as of mid-2024
- Reference to the European standard on alcohol interlocks (EN 50436)



# DRIVING LICENCE DIRECTIVE – EC PROPOSAL

March 2023

EC proposal for legal changes within the Driving Licence Directive:

- Adopt a zero-tolerance alcohol limit to novice drivers (min. two years after the test);  
     not taken up by the EP's transport committee and Member States
- Include alcohol dependent drivers in Alcohol Interlock offender programmes



# FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Mandate the use of alcohol interlocks for professional drivers
- Ensure the timely adoption of the implementing legislation on alcohol interlock installation facilitation for motor vehicles
- As a first step towards wider use of alcohol interlocks, legislate their use for repeat offenders and professional drivers.
- Adopt the EU driving licence directive proposal and allow people with an alcohol dependency to be included in alcohol interlock rehabilitation programmes, as long as it is combined with medical supervision

# FIND OUT MORE



European Transport Safety Council

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

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Find out more

**Antonio Avenoso**  
Executive Director

Watch our Videos

**7**  
SMART WAYS  
OF TACKLING  
DRINK-  
DRIVING IN  
THE EU



**PROGRESS IN REDUCING  
DRINK-DRIVING AND  
OTHER ALCOHOL-RELATED  
ROAD DEATHS IN EUROPE**

December 2019



**ALCOHOL INTERLOCKS  
AND DRINK DRIVING  
REHABILITATION  
IN THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Best practice and guidelines for Member States



**ETSC**  
European Transport Safety Council

**ETSC**  
European Transport Safety Council



HOW MANY  
**DRINKS**  
SHOULD YOU  
HAVE BEFORE DRIVING?



Alcohol Interlocks map online  
<https://etsc.eu/issues/drink-driving/alcohol-interlock-barometer/>

**ALCOHOL  
INTERLOCK  
PROGRAMME**  
AS AN  
ALTERNATIVE  
TO A DRIVING BAN

