



FRENCH PRESIDENT SETS SCENE FOR EuroRAP PARIS CONFERENCE

One hundred and twenty senior delegates from across Europe and all areas of France attended a very successful EuroRAP conference in Paris on Wednesday 15 October titled “Mapping the Safety of Europe’s Roads”- held in the delightful surroundings of the Library of the ACF headquarters on the Place de la Concorde.



Taking place during French Road Safety Week, media interest was high following French President Chirac’s declaration that “*we owe the French people the truth about where accidents occur*” on 14 October. Keen to highlight the differences between departments within France, President Chirac stated that it was important that the worst roads be targeted, and supported the publication of the

The ACF Library

risk rate map for France. Such high level endorsement is most helpful as EuroRAP develops its work with the French authorities.

Welcome and Opening Address

The Conference was ably chaired by Christian Gerondeau, Président of the Fédération Française des Automobile-Clubs.

The EuroRAP Vision

John Dawson gave a short presentation on the background to the EuroRAP programme and the methods and vision it supported.

The following session under the heading – a ‘Safe Road Transport System’ heard presentations from a variety of experts reflecting the key components of a safe road system.

The drivers viewpoint

Josyane Gorgibus from FFAC talked about the drivers viewpoint of road safety and the increasing focus on road safety measures in France which was welcomed by the motoring clubs.

The vehicle manufacturers viewpoint

James Rosentein from Toyota outlined the technological advances that have made new cars safer than ever before. He also noted that many of these advances had been undertaken by the industry itself without legislative pressure or government help.

Intelligent vehicles need intelligent roads

Manuel Gomez the Président of the Comité des Constructeurs Français d'Automobiles underlined the commitment of French car makers to EuroNCAP and to maintaining the highest standards in car construction. He also wished to see more investment in road infrastructure that would allow advances to be made in the future to further increase the safety margin for drivers and eliminate the human factor.

The road authorities viewpoint

Hans Wahlström demonstrated the progress that can be made if governments adopt a 'Zero Vision' strategy and the implications that this has for all aspects of road engineering work in Sweden.

How the fastest roads are the safest

Finally, in this section Jacques Boussuge from Autoroutes Sud de France gave a very interesting presentation on the customer driven approach adopted by toll road companies in France. He highlighted their current road safety campaigns and for example their use of dedicated radio stations to get the message across.

Following coffee delegates returned to a series of presentations and responses to the latest EuroRAP results.

EuroRAP Results:

Across Europe and Interpretation at the European level

David Lynam and John Dawson demonstrated that the EuroRAP approach produces results that can be presented in a number of different ways to a variety of audiences. The four-map approach with information available in the most useful form for each audience was shown. They stressed that EuroRAP wished its information to make a difference and to influence the way that resources are allocated to solve the worst road safety issues in Europe. The role of the motoring clubs in

communicating the EuroRAP message to the media and the motoring public was also highlighted.

Responses to EuroRAP Results



Hervé Mariton & Christian Gerondeau

The Chairman then chaired a lively session allowing French government representatives to give their initial thoughts on the results from EuroRAP. Robert Namias, Président of the Conseil National de la Sécurité Routière, Hervé Mariton, Député, rapporteur du Budget des Transports et de la Sécurité Routière, Patrick Gandil, Directeur des Routes, and Remy Heitz from Ministère de l'Équipement des Transport du Logement et de la Mer, all welcomed the EuroRAP programme. Problems of data release and working with the media were highlighted but it was clear that strong support existed to work with EuroRAP and bring France into the programme as soon as possible.

Chairman's Concluding Remarks

Christian Gerondeau summarised a very important meeting which had been perfectly timed to capture the new priority being given to reducing the carnage on French roads.

EuroRAP is grateful to Toyota for their help in supporting the event.