



## PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 18 January 2012

### **International meeting discusses how to make European tunnels safer**

**Tunnel safety officers from 18 European countries have met in Brussels today to find out how to make road tunnels safer across the European Union. Under EU legislation<sup>1</sup> Member States are required to appoint a tunnel safety officer for each tunnel covered by the directive. These officers are in charge of coordinating all preventive and safeguard measures to ensure the safety of tunnel users and the operational staff. More than forty of them today took part in the second European Forum of Road Tunnel Safety Officers to discuss key priorities, lessons learnt and technical details on carrying out their duties. Participants expressed their wish to continue and to strengthen this fruitful cooperation with the support of the European Commission.**

Today's forum was organised by the European Commission, the Committee on Operational Safety of Underground Facilities (COSUF) of the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (ITA) and the World Road Association (PIARC). The first forum was held in Lyon in 2009.

For more information about the forum, visit (<http://cosuf.ita-aites.org/>).

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2004/54/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum safety requirements for tunnels in the trans-European road network