

EUROPEAN FORUM OF ROAD TUNNEL SAFETY OFFICERS

Introduction and reminder
of lessons learnt from 1st
forum



Alain Picard 2012-01

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Introduction

- ◆ First Tunnel Safety Officers Forum:
Lyon 5th November 2009
 - Further work needed
 - Decision to start a working group (AG4)
 - To prepare a new and possibly regular European Forum with support of the EC
- ◆ And here we are...

Three sessions

- ◆ Morning session on tunnel safety officers' tasks and functions (chairman: A. Picard)
- ◆ First afternoon session on feedback from experience (chairman: Bernt Freiholtz)
- ◆ Second afternoon session on:
 - Safety inspections
 - Discussion and plan for the future (chairman: Johan Bosch)

Lessons from first forum (1)

- ◆ Transposition of the directive by member states:
 - is necessary in order to adapt to states existing regulations
- ◆ Independence:
 - There is no such thing as a fully, 100% independent tunnel safety officer
 - The degree of independence depends on many different aspects
 - A minimum independence is necessary in order to improve safety in tunnels

Lessons from first forum (2)

- ◆ Lessons learned from experience: It can only work if there is a strong involvement of the (upper) management

Legal aspects (1)

Independence and responsibilities

(from Arnold Dix presentation)

- ◆ Tunnel Safety officers are not subject to the European Directive (as the directive respects sovereignty of each country)
- ◆ Member states are (subject to it)
- ◆ But tunnel safety officers are subject to the Legal framework of their country

Legal aspects (2)

Independence and responsibilities

- ◆ The directive makes it clear that safety officers DO NOT make decisions
- ◆ Safety officers should WRITE but think twice beforehand

Legal aspects (3)

Independence and responsibilities

- ◆ The liability for the Safety officer independence lies in the hand of those responsible of the structure, not his

Legal aspects (4)

Independence and responsibilities

- ◆ Arnold Dix digest of what a safety officer is:
 - Not a decision maker
 - Provides opinions
 - Obligated to verify and validate some matters
 - Obligated to organise and consult
 - Not obliged to make actual decisions

- ◆ Documents from first forum still available on request
- ◆ Enough with the past, let us start our discussions with the first session...