

# EUROPEAN FORUM OF ROAD TUNNEL SAFETY OFFICERS

Introduction and reminder  
of lessons learnt from 1st  
forum



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TSO Forum 18th January  
2012  
Brussels



# Introduction

- ◆ First Tunnel Safety Officers Forum:  
Lyon 5<sup>th</sup> 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...