

Geleitwort des ETSC zur 4. Auflage

In 2021, there were 19,923 deaths on EU roads. Many more were seriously injured, with European Commission data from 2019 putting the figure at around 120,000.

The EU and its Member States have agreed to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries by 50% by 2030, an ambitious target that will require a multi-faceted approach across all areas of traffic safety.

Driver licensing, and the associated assessment of "medical and psychological fitness to drive", can play an important role and the European Commission is in the process of revising the EU rules in this area. So this new edition of the assessment criteria for fitness to drive in Germany comes at a timely moment.

The European Transport Safety Council's (ETSC) own most recent research into fitness to drive procedures found that current EU minimum standards need an overhaul.¹ Many European countries still take the driver's age as the starting point for assessing fitness to drive, despite ample evidence that specific medical conditions, substance abuse, mental disorders, epilepsy and diabetes are more important factors than age when it comes to fitness to drive.

ETSC supports the introduction of a screening protocol in order to increase consistency in assessing driver's fitness to drive across the EU.

Moreover, ETSC supports the development and promotion of evidence-based guidelines for family doctors and psychologists involved in assessing the functional capabilities of someone suspected of being an unfit driver.

A lack of good data on the role played by medical conditions and behaviour disorders in road collisions is also a significant problem. Pan-European in-depth collision investigation data could help – but currently only a small number of countries systematically collects such data.

ETSC is also calling for a change in the driving license legislation to allow drivers with alcohol dependency to participate in rehabilitation programmes, and be issued with a conditional licence (code 69) with mandatory use of an alcohol interlock. Effective alcohol interlock programmes can save lives. Ideally, they should be combined with medical supervision and also psychological follow-up before and counselling during the programme.

This new edition, which examines the state of the art in medical-psychological assessment in Germany, takes an interdisciplinary approach in order

¹ Siehe <https://etsc.eu/pinflash40> (abgerufen am 19.9.2022).