

Measure 52: Technical investigations of the causes of road accidents

First page:

<p><i>Policy package:</i></p> <p>ID: Road Safety, quality and environment</p>
<p><i>Measure 52:</i></p> <p>Develop a methodology at European level to encourage independent technical investigations, also by setting up a committee of independent experts within the Commission</p>
<p><i>What is the problem being addressed ?</i></p> <p>There are plans to develop independent road accident investigations along the lines of the existing European civil aviation regulations. However, it would not be possible to conduct a detailed investigation of each road traffic accident given that there are so many of them. It is more realistic to focus on the most serious accidents and on a representative sample of accidents. Such investigations, independent from those conducted by the judicial authorities or insurance companies should be geared to the causes of accidents rather than the question of who is responsible and should make it possible to improve the current legislation and practices. They should be carried out at national level on the basis of a European methodology and their findings should be communicated for assessment by a group of experts meeting within the Commission. These investigations, relating to a limited number of accidents will supplement the general road accident statistics and the detailed accident case studies carried out by multidisciplinary teams. The databases built up in this way will be made available to researchers.</p> <p>European legislation on this type of investigations has been in force for several years concerning civil aviation. A similar obligation has been proposed for the railways. The Commission is now considering proposing that similar investigations should be carried out concerning maritime transport and in the longer term concerning road accidents.</p>
<p><i>Measure's costs and/or benefits:</i></p> <p>The costs of technical investigations may be estimated based on average cost of aviation investigations, scaling down this cost to take into account the smaller scale of the sampled road accidents.</p>
<p><i>Legislative implementation at the EU level:</i></p> <p>At the best of our knowledge, there are no specific EU proposals concerning this measure.</p>
<p><i>What are the objectives ?</i></p> <p>The aim of the measure is to enable a regular procedure of technical investigations, based on experts meeting and with the support of technical services and devices to allow the analysis of data concerning the causes of the accidents. At this regard, the installation of recording devices (black boxes) in certain categories of road vehicles, as in other forms of transport, will make it possible to understand the technical causes of accidents, make motorist more responsible, speed up court proceedings following accidents, lower the cost of court proceedings and enable more effective prevention measures to be taken.</p>
<p><i>Interactions with other WP measures:</i></p> <p>Pointing to a better understanding of the causes of accidents, the measure will be clearly related to all the other road safety measures, in so far as will become possible to assess their contribution to mitigate the causes of the accidents detected in the technical investigations.</p>

Second page:

Output indicators:

Whenever the measure will be in place, the key output indicator to monitor will be the installation of recording devices, e.g. computing the share of vehicles on the total passenger cars, buses, lorries etc. fleets with a black box installed.

Outcome indicators: intermediate impacts on transport markets

The measure may have a strong impact on the speed of insurance and court proceedings, reducing the costs of insurance companies and judicial services.

Outcome indicators: final impacts on transport users and non users

Increased road safety thanks to the more effective prevention measures that can be taken based on the better understanding of accidents' causes.