



# Road safety policy in The Netherlands

**Mrs. P.H. de Roover**

**Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management**

**18 October 2005**

# Contents



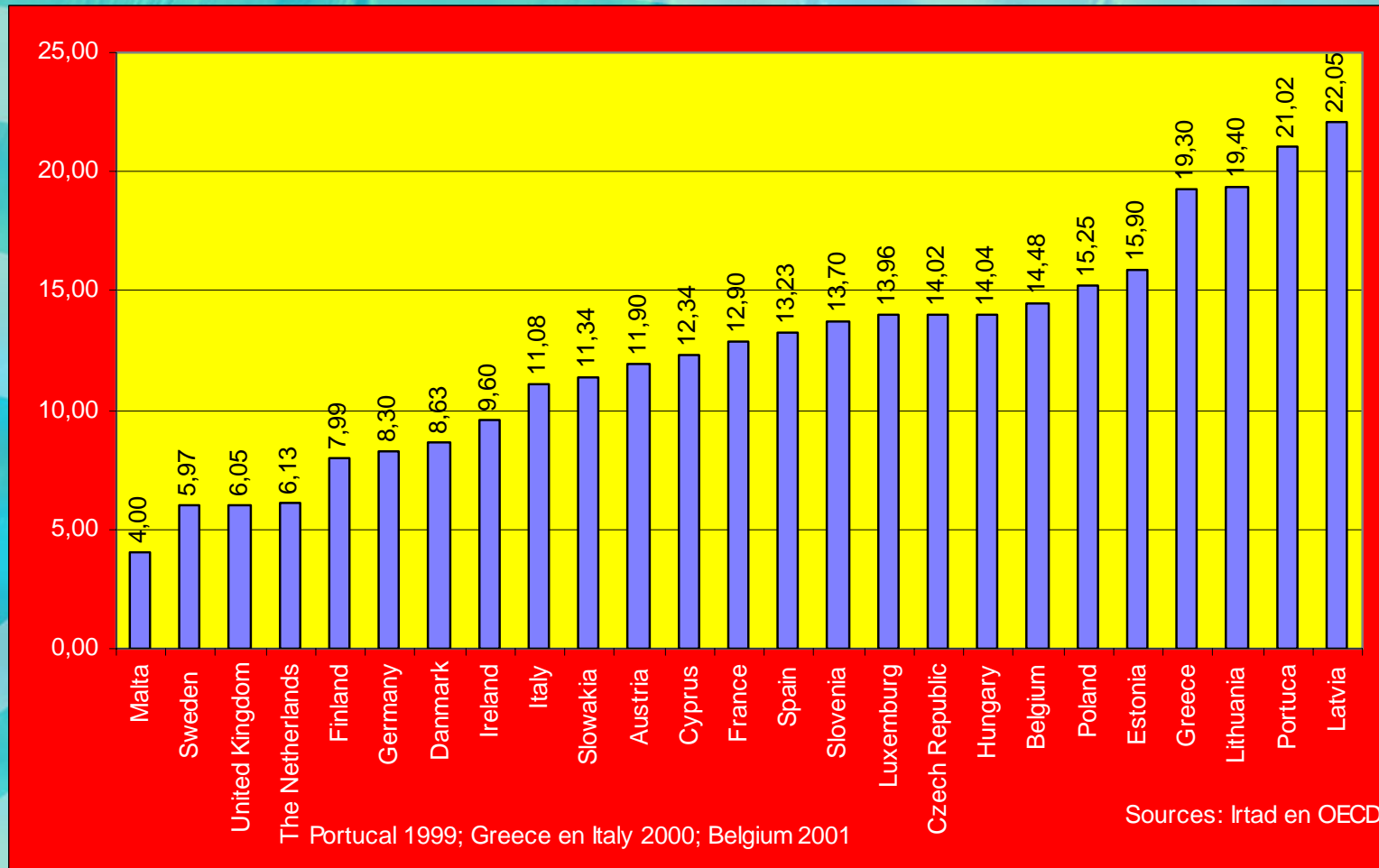
Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

- Introduction
- Facts and figures
- Developments in safety policy in the Netherlands
- Why still a political priority
- Challenges for the next years

# Fatalities per 100.000 inhabitants



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat



# Political priority



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

## New road safety targets 2010

(actual number)

- A maximum of 900 fatalities (-15%)
- A maximum of 17.000 serious injured (-7,5%)

# The Netherlands



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

- Inhabitants: 16 million
- Surface: 33870 km<sup>2</sup>
- Total road network length: 120.000 km
- Cars: 6,8 million
- Bicycles: 13 million bicycles
- Mopeds: 0,5 million



# Annual average mileages



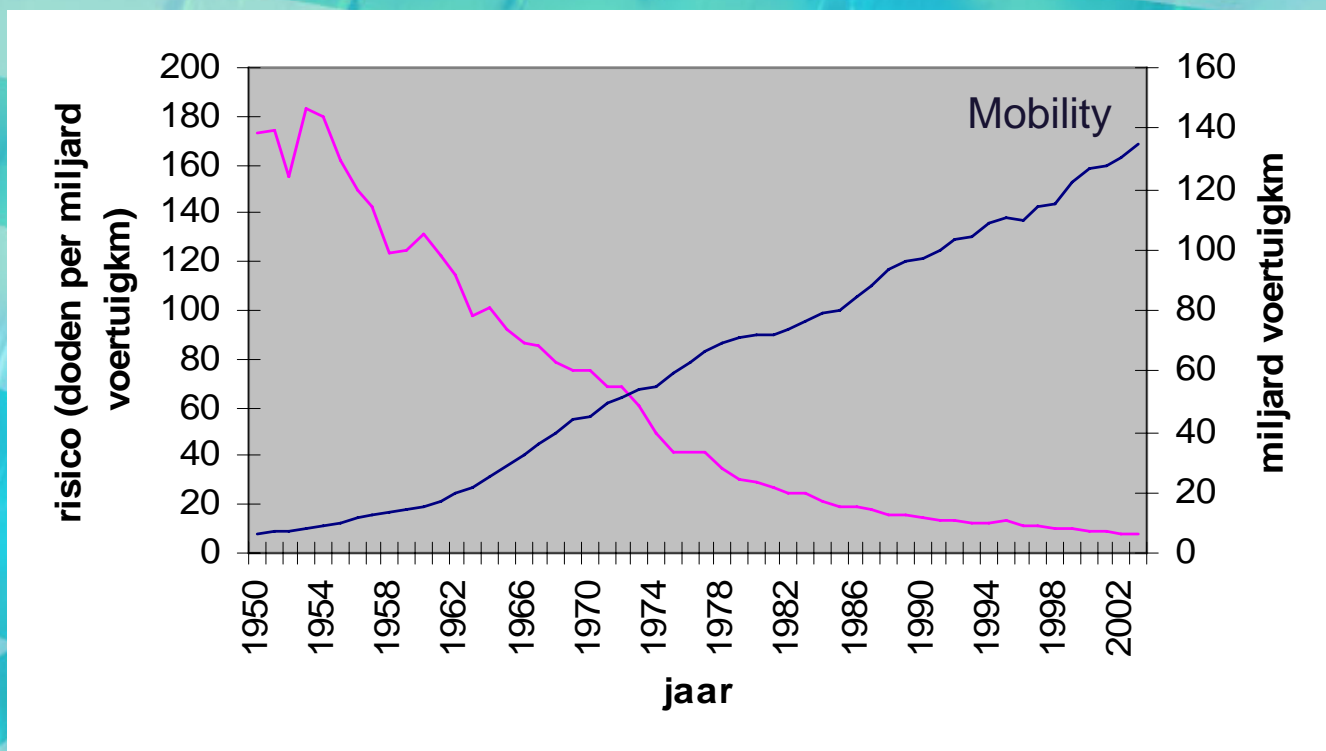
Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat



# Fatalities vs driver km's



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat



# Developments in safety policy



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

## Policy spearheads

- black spots
- speed
- drunk driving
- cyclists and moped drivers
- heavy vehicles
- safety devices



# Developments in safety Policy



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

Developments in the sustainable safety process:

- 1988: the spearhead policy was effective, but did not address the problem at the source
- 1990: the new concept of sustainable safety was formulated and presented
- 1997: The start-up programme was launched
- 2005: The second phase is launched (decentralisation)

# Cooperation with other parties



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

- European Community, WHO
- Other Departments
- Local governments
- Safety organisations
- Research institutes
- Insurance companies and fleetowners

# Underlying philosophy of sustainable safety



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

The human is the measure of things

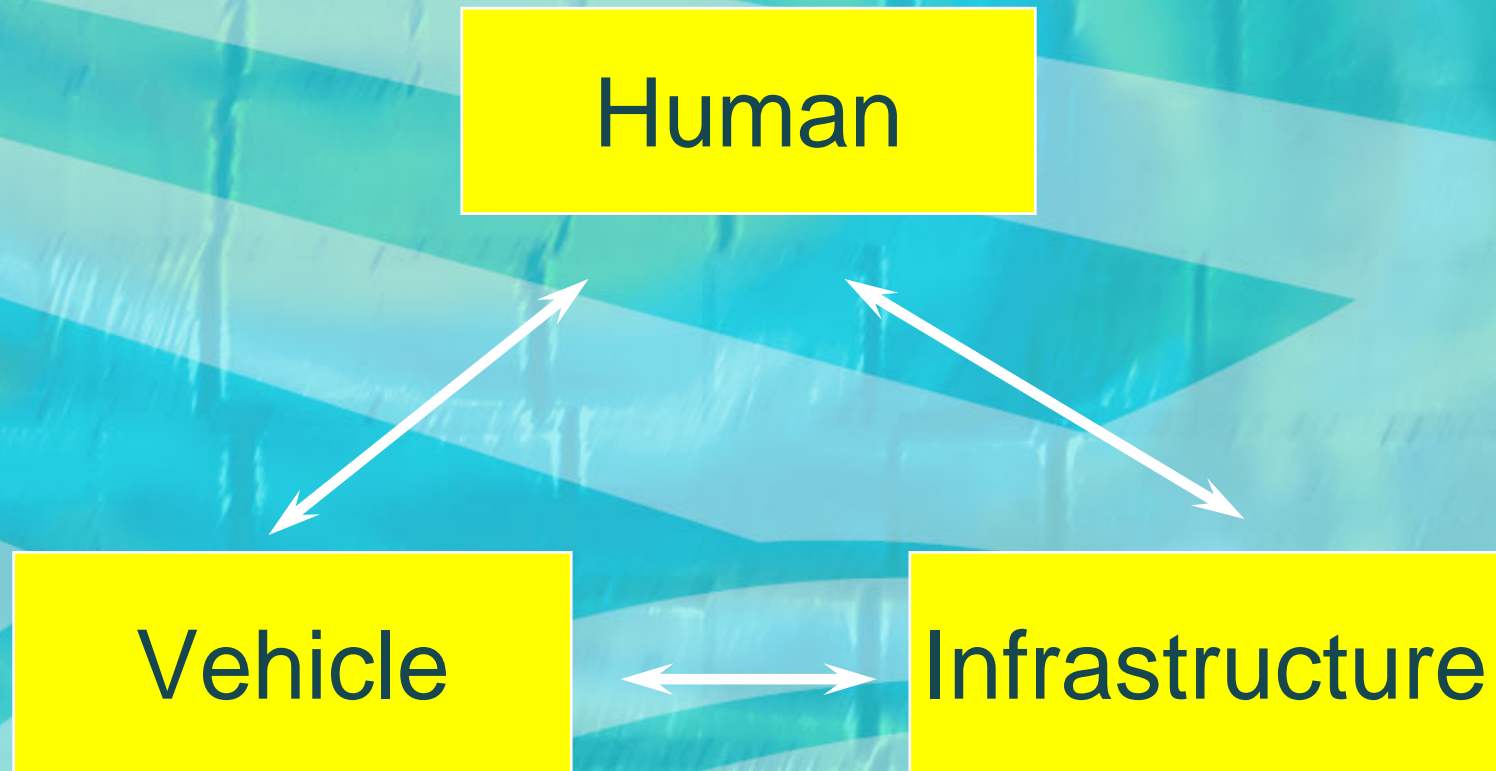
and

prevention instead of cure

# Characteristics of sustainable safety



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat



# Characteristics of sustainable safety



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

- A road environment with an infrastructure adapted to the limitations of the road user
- Vehicles equipped with technology to simplify the driving task and provided with the features that protect vulnerable and other users; and
- Road users that are well informed and adequately educated

# Human behavior



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

- Awareness campaigns
- Enforcement
- Education



**SEAT BELTS ON  
SUPERSMART!**

The way to get **HOME** safely

Save  
400  
euros  
in  
← 2 sec. →

The way to get **HOME** safely

**Lights on!**

The way to get **HOME** safely

**Bob**  
FOR ALL  
YOUR  
PARTIES

The way to get **HOME** safely

# Measures



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

## Measures on national level

- Measures targeted at new qualified drivers (provisional driving licence, alcohol limit of 0,02 g/dl)
- Penalty point licence
- Alcohol lock
- Safety measures in freight-transport (i.e. safety culture)
- Information-campaigns in combination with enforcement





# Vehicle technology



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

- Together with European partners
- From passive safety to active safety
- Not only legislation: EuroNCAP, pilots like
  - Intelligent Speed Adaptation
  - Lane Departure Warning Assistant
  - Chauffeur Assistant
- Encourage use of safety features (safety belts)



# Road



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

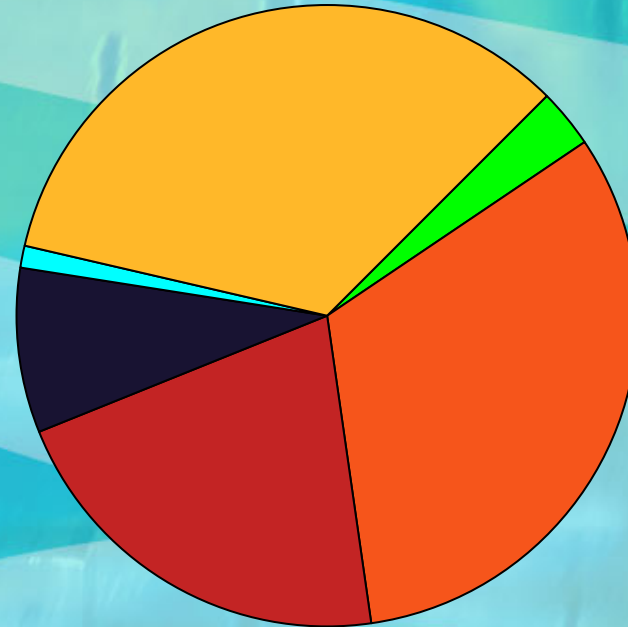
- Road design and maintenance
- Traffic circles
- Essential features/  
characteristics

# Costs of road accidents



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

9,0 billion €/year



- medical costs
- lost production
- material costs
- settlements costs
- tailback costs
- immaterial costs

# Challenges for the next ten years



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

- Continuing growing transport
- Older population
- Using existing and new technologies
- Create broad interest in issue of road safety