

## What is EuroTest?

EuroTest has put the quality and safety of Europe's mobility infrastructure to the test since 2000. The programme is conducted by a consortium of European automobile clubs, under the aegis of the FIA – Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile in Brussels who collectively represent over 34 million mobile European consumers.

In defence of consumer interests, EuroTest surveys have been built on test methodologies that draw on the best available practices and regulations. All EuroTests use a common rating scheme and each test is repeated periodically to check for enhancements.

EuroTest is about "making the difference". Test results published Europe wide in the media, calls for new measures, advice to

operators and consumers all play a role. Improvements are achieved for consumers.

National and European authorities, in response to identified shortcomings, often answer positively.

### Key EuroTest objectives:

- Raise public awareness about the actual state of mobility in Europe
- Call for the quality and safety standards we believe mobile consumers deserve
- Provide mobile consumers with tips and recommendations so they can safeguard their own mobility
- Stimulate public debate about identified failings and if necessary call for regulations

## EuroTests – Defending consumers' mobility in Europe



### → RO-RO PASSENGER FERRIES

Ferry disasters in the 1990's like the Estonia led the automobile clubs to insist on better safety standards for the millions including motorists who annually travel on ro-ro passenger ferries. Thanks to our regular independent and incognito assessments since 1996 safety standards and new European legislation governing maritime safety and security procedures have evolved. Today, failings like poor safety information for passengers or lorry drivers sleeping in their vehicles or locked away lifejackets are unacceptable. ■

### → MOTORWAY SERVICE AREAS (MSAs)

Taking breaks on long journeys by car is essential for road safety. MSAs have a duty to provide mobile consumers with quality services thus ensuring that they return to the road refreshed and alert.

The MSA EuroTest does a regular spot check of about 60 MSAs located on Europe's most important tourist highways over a peak holiday weekend. Family-friendliness, hygiene, catering and road safety are key considerations. In every test conducted so far conditions in about 30% of MSAs were not optimal.

In future, EuroTest intends to look at truck rest and parking areas with an additional check of the levels of security offered. ■



### → ROAD WORKS

All drivers encounter road works zones sometimes. They are necessary for improving road quality, but often road work zones are the scene of severe accidents. Indeed their presence can increase the accident risk by up to 400% compared to normal conditions. The aim of the road works EuroTest is to inform

motorists, promote solutions for safer traffic management and achieve sustainable increases in safety. ■



### → INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC SIGNS

Sign posting should ensure a safe and smooth flow of traffic. It should be commonly recognisable and understood. A growing number of local signs across Europe indicating environmental restrictions are adding to the confusion. Not all signs are visible or understandable as verified by the many motorists we have



58 CAR RENTAL AGENCIES IN THE 2006 TEST										
AGENCY	VEHICLE	RENTAL PROCEDURE	VEHICLE							
			Engine compartment	Owners, leaflets and driving	Upright seat belts	Equipment and average safety	Vehicle safety	Insurance coverage	Customer service	Overall score (0-10)
<b>GREECE</b>										
National agency website										
Chironomios (Ole)			5/5	2/2	1/1	2/2	1/1	2/2	1/1	10
Avis - Hyundai Avia	2005	7845	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Hertz - Opel Astra	2003	35 161	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Motor Plan - Suzuki Vitara	NA	24 170	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Sixt - Peugeot 206	2003	34 023	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Royal Car Rental - Daewoo Matiz	2004	26 773	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Rental-one - Daihatsu Cuore	1996	202 241	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
<b>ITALY</b>										
Porto Corsa (Sardinia)										
Avis - VW Polo	2005	3955	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Ethem Rent a Car - Fiat Panda	2005	7597	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Exploit Auto. Rent a Car - Fiat Panda	2004	8147	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
La Luna Rent a Car - Suzuki Jimmy	NA	64 700	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Quemac Rent a Car - Chevrolet	2003	69 062	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
<b>PORTUGAL</b>										
Lisbon										
Lisbon Car - Renault Clio	2005	8110	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Budget - Opel Corsa	2005	3655	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Avis - Peugeot 206	2005	2415	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Auto Prudente - Suzuki Jimmy	2001	58 531	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Sixt - VW Polo	2004	30 956	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
Hertz - Peugeot 107	2005	2194	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10
City Rent a Car - Fiat Punto	2000	54 113	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	5/5	10

surveyed across Europe. Indeed some are even stupid! ■

### → CAR HIRE

For those of us who fly to our holiday destinations, local car hire firms can provide the answer to wonderful day trips further a field. However, consumers should beware. This EuroTest reveals how poorly maintained, even dangerous vehicles and hire contracts loaded with nasty surprises can lay in wait for unsuspecting tourists. The EuroTest "quick check" list advises consumers of the key points to watch out for when hiring a car on holiday. ■



→ PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

We are all pedestrians sometimes, but especially senior citizens and children, the main pedestrian victims in road accidents. This three year European survey seeks to identify the reasons why 10% of road accidents involving pedestrians occur on or near pedestrian crossings. A key objective is to identify optimal types of pedestrian crossings and equipment for recommendation everywhere. ■



→ DO MOTORISTS KNOW THEIR CARS?

Safer mobility in Europe means we must also target better and safer drivers. EuroTest’s spot checks have looked at the most important practical skills and knowledge drivers in Europe should have. Most of us think we are much better drivers than we are. Of the 97% who held this opinion only 3% really were! ■

→ PARK & RIDE

Urban mobility is of growing concern. P&R schemes are meant to offer motorists a stress-free solution to urban traffic congestion and the search for non-existent street parking.

Motorists park out of town and transfer to public transport for in-town journeys. This EuroTest aims to benchmark the prevalence, quality, use and value for money of such schemes Europe wide. ■

→ EUROPEAN ROAD TUNNELS

Horrific tunnel fires inspired the Tunnel EuroTest and subsequent annual inspections of major road tunnels on Europe’s most important traffic highways. Ten years and 353 independent audits later, our tunnel test is unique in benchmarking the safety and failings of Europe’s tunnels. Parallel to infrastructure



assessment, driver education and information is vital for improved tunnel safety. Moreover, our EuroTAP awards reward Europe’s best tunnels for their excellence. ■



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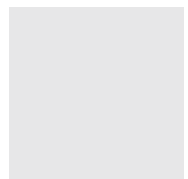
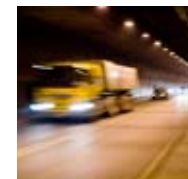
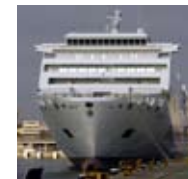
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