

## **ESG2- presentation at Annual Forum, Lissabon**

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### **Sheet 2**

I would like to present to you the work the Expert and Study Group on traffic management deals with.

Part of the work in the field of traffic management takes place behind the scenes and is not always directly visible on the road. It concerns the work of traffic managers in traffic centres.

They work every day to ensure a safe and efficient use of the available road network. This is of course to the benefit of the road user.

In my presentation, I would like to show you those aspects of traffic management that are visible on the roads. All the traffic management measures that you will see in my presentation are described in the deployment guidelines that are managed by the Expert and Study Group on Traffic Management.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, I would like you to meet Jack. **Sheet 3**

Jack is an Easyway-citizen. He has tickets for a concert of the famous rock star Tom Cochrane. The concert is tonight, at 7 o'clock in the neighbouring country, about one hour and a half drive from Jacks home. This is Jacks story.

It is already 5 o'clock and it is rush hour. Jack is afraid he might be late for the concert. **Sheet 4** When driving to the highway, he realises that some weeks ago ramp metering was installed. **Sheet 5** Jack is happy with this ramp metering, because it helps maintaining the flow of traffic on the highway. **sheet 6**

Compared to the situation before the ramp metering was installed, the traffic speed on the highway has increased, there is considerably less congestion and there are less accidents.

**Sheet 7** Because of the heavy traffic, the hard shoulder is opened. As you can see, a camera is monitoring the traffic. As soon as there is an incident or a stranded car or another obstruction on the hard shoulder, it is closed for safety reasons. Once the hard shoulder is clear of obstructions, it can be opened again. Thanks to using the hard shoulder, the road capacity is increased. There is no congestion and the traffic flows smoothly.

**Sheet 8** Jack is happily driving his car...

**Sheet 9**...until he has to slow down because of an overtaking truck.

This disturbs the traffic and causes congestion. Jack is annoyed at the truck drivers. He thinks the trucks are dangerous and slow down the traffic. Soon Jack arrives at a section **sheet 10** where there is a HGV overtaking ban. All trucks drive in the right lane and traffic on the other lane is flowing smoothly.

**Sheet 11** Then the VMS shows that there is a cross-border rerouting.

Jack hesitates a few seconds and then realises that he can trust the traffic managers. **Sheet 12** He assumes that there is a good co-operation between the traffic centres at both sides of the border and he takes the diversion.

**Sheet 13** Traffic on the alternative route flows smoothly and Jack has only a few minutes extra driving time thanks to the cross border rerouting.

It is still rush hour and there is dense traffic.

**Sheet 14** Luckily, variable speed limits are used at this part of the highway. The speed limit is reduced to 90 km/hour. Most drivers adhere to the speed limit, as they see that there is a lot of traffic and reducing their speed improves traffic fluency. It also has positive effects on safety and air quality.

Jack is confident that he will arrive at the concert in time.

**Sheet 15** But then the VMS shows that an accident has happened.

Because of this warning, Jack and the other road users can slow down in time.

**Sheet 16** A truck has turned over and all lanes are closed. Because the road is blocked completely, Jack and the other road users are standing still. They have to wait until the road is opened again. Jack is now worried that he will be late for the concert.

**sheet 17** To his great relief he sees that almost immediately police, ambulance, fire brigades as well as vehicle recovery services are at place.

**Sheet 18** There is a good co-operation between all parties involved. They work fast and safely. The truck is put on his wheels again. The left lane is now cleared and can be opened.

**Sheet 19** Jack proceeds his journey.

He arrives near the location of the concert. **Sheet 20** Because there is a lot of traffic going to the concert, a tidal flow system is in place. This system allows traffic to the concert to use one extra lane on the other side. Traffic going to the concert can now use 3 lanes instead of 2.

Traffic in the other direction can only use 1 lane instead of 2. This increases the capacity temporarily. It improves the traffic flow and reduces the number of accidents.

## Sheet 21

Thanks to several traffic management measures, Jack has arrived in time and he is now ready to enjoy the concert.