

## ISSUE: 04. WINTER SERVICE MANAGEMENT

SUB-ISSUE: Road user safety

Session: 06/02/2014 ( 08:30 - 10:00 h )    Poster: 06/02/2014 ( 15:30 - 18:30 h )

Room: D

### MR. OTTO KÄRKI

#### Organisation:

Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for South Ostrobothnia

#### Country:

 Finland

#### e-mail:

otto.karki@ely-keskus.fi

#### Presentation title:

POTENTIAL OF WINTER MAINTENANCE FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY IN FINLAND

#### Summary:

Fatalities in wintertime traffic have fallen by roughly 70% in Finland since 1990, thanks to improved winter service management and other steps taken by road authorities. The fatality risk has been approximately the same in winter and summer for over 10 years. In the early 1990s the fatality risk in wintertime traffic was about 20% higher than in summertime. Several factors underlie this positive trend, among them the development of winter maintenance, wintertime speed limits, automated speed enforcement, road weather information systems, and vehicle technology. Automatic speed enforcement has had an even better influence on safety in winter than in summer. The average speed of heavy traffic fell by 3 km/h in the 2000s. A positive trend in wintertime safety has emerged despite reduction of salting in road maintenance throughout the 1990s and 2000s. Winter maintenance is classified into five main quality categories in Finland. The current winter maintenance policy in Finland emphasises roads with high traffic volume (AADT>15000/day).

