

## INTRODUCTION

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This circular reports on an important session that was held at the Traffic Safety on Two Continents International Conference, held in The Hague, The Netherlands on September 23, 1993. The session was organized by the Transportation Research Board Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs and Transportation. The Committee put this session together so that a very significant worldwide reduction over the past decade in the incidence of drinking and driving could be discussed in an international forum. The presentations covered the nature of the decline and the reasons for it in Australia, United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and the United States. The pattern and reasons for the reduction vary from country to country. Some show large reductions among young drivers, others do not. Some show an improvement in the number of pedestrian alcohol fatalities and in other countries that is not the case. One might think that the reasons for the reductions would be similar from country to country, but after reading the papers it will be apparent that there is some similarity but there is also quite a bit of difference. Many of the presenters talked about the reasons for the reduction. Presenters also discussed alcohol consumption and the economic conditions in the various countries and what role they played. We were very pleased because we had some of the world's top experts in this field prepare papers and participate at the session to discuss this very important subject. In addition to the countries that made presentations, colleagues from France prepared a paper describing what occurred in their country. A summary of that paper is included in this circular. The circular also includes a summary of the general discussion that followed the formal presentations.

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