

Traffic rules in various EU-countries

This information is based upon the information ECC Belgium received from the ECC-Network. The ECC Belgium cannot be held responsible for any mistakes or inaccuracies.

Comments on questions:

By **country specific requirements** is meant like Umweltplakette in Germany or Zona o traffico limitato in Italy).

Navigation System with programmed radars - Devices such as a GPS-system with programmed radars as a point of interest (cfr. gas station, restaurant, ...). The device doesn't notify if radar is active or not.

Radar Detectors - Devices that detect active radars by the reception of radio waves

Austria

Speed limit on highways: 130 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: not applicable (at the moment)

Toll: on highways

Amount of toll: 10 days vignette € 7,90; 2 month vignette € 23,-; one year vignette € 76,50 more details: <http://www.asfinag.at/toll-stickers-and-rates>

Country specific requirements: no, but in discussion

Requirements for bicycle riders: no

Mandatory winter tyres: yes, in case of winter conditions between 01.11.- 15.04.

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: legislation not clear

Remarks: www.vignette.at

Belgium

Speed limit on highways: 120 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: not applicable

Toll: exceptional toll (Liefkenshoektunnel near Antwerp)

Amount of toll: €4,60 - € 5,50 depending on payment method

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: no requirements

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks: @ 5 only one toll tunnel near Antwerp

Bulgaria

Speed limit on highways: 130 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: mandatory from 01 November till 01 March

Toll: vignette for one year/

Amount of toll: 7days 5€; 1 month 13€; 1 year 34€ (67 leva).

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: no

Mandatory winter tyres: winter tires are not mandatory

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Cyprus

Speed limit on highways: 100 Km/h

Reflective jacket in car: recommended

Alcohol limit: 50mg/dl - blood

Lights on during day: only on motorways

Toll: no

Amount of toll: no

Country specific requirements: Drive on the left hand side

Requirements for bicycle riders: Use of crash helmets is advised

Mandatory winter tyres:

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: yes

Remarks:

Czech Republic

Speed limit on highways: 130 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0 promile

Lights on during day: applicable

Toll: on highways - vignette

Amount of toll: 10 days/250 CZK, 1 month/350 CZK, 1 year 1200 CZK

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: obligatory helmets for children under 15 years

Mandatory winter tyres: if weather conditions require - from 01/11 - 31/03

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: yes

Remarks:

Denmark

Speed limit on highways: 130 km/h unless signposting indicates a different speed limit

Reflective jacket in car: no requirements

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: mandatory

Toll: Toll only for driving on "Storebæltsbroen" and "Øresundsbroen"

Amount of toll: "Storebæltbroen", <http://www.storebaelt.dk/english/toll-charges> , "Øresundsbroen", <http://uk.oresundsbron.com/page/34>

Country specific requirements: No requirements for cars

Requirements for bicycle riders: no

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: yes

Remarks:

Estonia

Speed limit on highways: 90 km/h; in some roads the speed limit may be increased up to 120 km/h (during summer time)

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,2 promille

Lights on during day: mandatory

Toll: no

Amount of toll: no

Country specific requirements: Speed cameras are installed on bigger roads in purpose to measure the speed of vehicles.

Requirements for bicycle riders: A person of at least 10 years of age may cycle on a carriageway; - Cyclists between 10 and 15 years of age shall hold a corresponding driving licence when cycling on a carriageway.

Mandatory winter tyres: From 01/12 until 1/3 winter tyres are obligatory (studded/grill tyres).

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks: From 01/07/2011 there will be forced a new Traffic Act, which may change some of the above mentioned rights or obligations.

Finland

Speed limit on highways: 100 - 120 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: no

Toll: no

Amount of toll: no

Country specific requirements:

Requirements for bicycle riders: no

Mandatory winter tyres: winter tyres between December 1- February 28

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks: Speed limit – it is in fact between 100 – 120 km/h. Depends on the high way that you take. Time of the year matters, in winter most highways it is max 100 km/h.

France

Speed limit on highways: 130km/h (some parts of highways are limited and signaled at 110km/h)

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory since 1st October 2008 (+ Pre-signalling triangle)

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille/liter of blood

Lights on during day: not mandatory

Toll: 77% of the highways are paying ; <http://franceautoroutes.free.fr/reseau.php>

Amount of toll: varies ; http://www.aprr.fr/PDF/tarifs_aprr.pdf

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: Obligations include 2 brakes, warning beep and reflective jacket: http://www.securite-routiere.equipement.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/DepVELO2_cle5ab79f.pdf. Helmets will be mandatory from 1/1 2013.

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks: In case of rainy weather, speed limitation is 110km/h on highways.

Germany

Speed limit on highways: no speed limit (130 km/h recommended)

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory for commercial vehicles.

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille (regulatory offence); 0,3-1,0 promille criminal offence when accompanied with adverse effects; more than 1,1 promille always criminal offence

Lights on during day: not applicable

Toll: only for vehicles of more than 12 tons

Amount of toll:

Country specific requirements: Umweltplakette in certain cities

Requirements for bicycle riders: no

Mandatory winter tyres: yes if required by weather conditions

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Greece

Speed limit on highways: from 110 km/h up to 130 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: no

Alcohol limit: 0,5 mg/ml

Lights on during day: obligatory as soon as the sun sets

Toll: yes a lot

Amount of toll: For motorcycles: 0,40€ - 2,10€ ; For cars: 0,50€ - 3,10€ ; For trucks - buses: 1,30€ - 7,60€ ; For big trucks: 1,80€ - 10,70€

Country specific requirements: Weekends and on holidays heavy trucks are not allowed on highways

Requirements for bicycle riders: Helmets are obligatory for motorcycles and bicycles. Reflective jackets are obligatory for bicycles

Mandatory winter tyres:

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Hungary

Speed limit on highways: 130 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,0 (!) zero tolerance in Hungary

Lights on during day: outside cities and towns is mandatory

Toll: on highways yes

Amount of toll: about 5-6 euros for 4 days, about 10 euros for a week
<http://www.autopalya.hu/02Ematrica/00Dijtablazat2011>

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: Helmet and reflective jacket, at night og in case og limited visibility.

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: yes

Remarks:

Iceland

Speed limit on highways: 90 km/h (80 if you have a caravan in tow and also on gravel roads)

Reflective jacket in car: no

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille (blood test)

Lights on during day: obligatory

Toll: Hvalfjörður tunnel

Amount of toll: 1000 kr. pr. car - approx. 6 EUR

Country specific requirements:

Requirements for bicycle riders: children up to 15 years old are obliged to wear helmets – cyclists are allowed to cycle on sidewalks – lights after sunset mandatory.

Mandatory winter tyres: non-mandatory

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: yes

Remarks:

Ireland

Speed limit on highways: 120 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: recommended

Alcohol limit: 20mg (per 100ml of blood) for learners, novice and professional drivers; 50mg for others

Lights on during day: not applicable

Toll: toll payable on 12 motorways

Amount of toll: Motor Cars Toll: M1-1.80€, M50-2.00€ tag registered, 2.50€ video registered, 3€ non-registered. East Link Toll Bridge-1.70€, Dublin Port Tunnel- 10€ (6am-10am Mon-Fri) and 3€ all other times, M4-2.70€, M6-1.80€, M7/M8-1.80€, N25-1.80€, M3(Clonee-Dunshaughlin) 1.30€, M3(Navan-Kells)1.30€, Limerick Tunnel-1.80€

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: Bike riders are required to keep their bikes roadworthy; minimum lighting requirements: at night bike riders must carry a lamp showing a white or yellow light to the front and to the back.

Mandatory winter tyres: non-mandatory

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Italy

Speed limit on highways: 130 Km/h if not differently indicated (110 Km/h in case of rain). Can be enhanced to 150 km/h on some 3 lane roads, under certain conditions.

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille (0,0 promille novice drivers and people under 21)

Lights on during day: Cars: mandatory on highways, forbidden in town; motorbikes: always mandatory

Toll: on highways normally required

Amount of toll: It depends on vehicles and highway classification; please find here an official table: http://www.autostrade.it/pop_tariffa_1.html The medium amount is about € 0,10/Km

Country specific requirements: In some cities the access to the centre is limited to authorized vehicles (e.g. Florence, Siena, Bologna, Pisa, Rome, Milan, Turin etc.) <http://ztl-italia.blogspot.com/> In some is possible to buy temporary permits. Motorbikes are normally authorized to enter in Limited Traffic areas.

Requirements for bicycle riders: Reflective jacket is mandatory: from 30 minutes after the sunset to 30 minutes before the sunrise, outside built-up areas and in tunnels.

Mandatory winter tyres: Mandatory from November 15th to March 31st where expressly stated by local regulations (e.g. Province of Milan, South Tyrol, some areas of Umbria and Emilia Romagna regions)

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes (the Police also provides a map of speed detectors on the website).

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Latvia

Speed limit on highways: 90 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille (0,2 promille for drivers who have less than 2 years practice)

Lights on during day: mandatory

Toll: In general no toll, exception is city- Jurmala (1,4€)

Amount of toll: In order to drive into Jurmala, the toll is amount of 1 LVL (about 0.70 EUR)

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: At night or in case of limited visibility, bike should be equipped from both sides (in wheels) with 2 orange (yellow) light reflectors, as well in front of bike there should be switched on white light, but in the back of bike- red light. Helmet is mandatory for children under 12.

Mandatory winter tyres: yes (01/12 - 01/03)

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Lithuania

Speed limit on highways: 110 km/h (November 1 - March 31), 130 km/h (April 1 - October 31)

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,4 promille (0,2 promille for drivers having less than 2 years of practice, also for drivers driving more than 9-seat vehicle or more than 3,5 tons of weight vehicle)

Lights on during day: mandatory

Toll: Buses have to pay toll/heavy vehicles in some roads (A1-A18), not personal vehicles.

Amount of toll:

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: Official requirements for bike riders: red reflector in the back of the bike, orange reflectors from both sides; white light on the bike during dark time in front, red - in the back. Reflective jacket or reflectors on the clothes are mandatory. Helmet is mandatory till 18 years old in the roads, for others - recommended.

Mandatory winter tyres: winter tires are obliged in Lithuania for the period 10 November – 1 April.

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Luxembourg

Speed limit on highways: 130km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: not applicable

Toll: no

Amount of toll:

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: no requirements

Mandatory winter tyres: not mandatory

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks: in case of rainy weather, speed limit on highways is 110km/h alcohol limit: 0,2 promille for young drivers

Malta

Speed limit on highways: generally it is 80 but it could also be 60 or 70 – so the advice is to follow the speed limit signs

Reflective jacket in car: no

Alcohol limit: breathe alcohol level higher than 35 µg/100ml or a blood alcohol level of more than 80 mg/100ml

Lights on during day: no (only when driving through tunnels it is obligatory to use lights)

Toll: no

Amount of toll:

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: cycle helmet

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no regulation

Radar Detectors allowed: no regulation

Remarks: In Malta, traffic must keep to the left-hand side of the road

Netherlands

Speed limit on highways: 120 km/h (130 km/h from September 2012).

Reflective jacket in car: not mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: if vision is unclear (due to heavy rainfall or fog)

Toll: exceptional toll (2 tunnels)

Amount of toll: Waterscheldetunnel: € 3,80 - € 4,90 - Kiltunnel: € 1,45 - € 2,00

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: Driving bike during dark time or in poor visibility conditions, bike should be equipped from both sides (in wheels) with 2 light reflectors, as well in front of bike there should be switched on white light, but in the back of bike- red light

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Norway

Speed limit on highways: 100 if it is indicated. If there is no speed limit indicated the speed limit is 80 KM/H. Always pay attention to signs!

Reflective jacket in car: Mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,2 promille

Lights on during day: Compulsory

Toll: Yes. Credit cards and coins accepted

Amount of toll: Depends on the motorway (around 30 NOK)

Country specific requirements: It is forbidden to drive with studded tires in Norway except between November 1st and second Easter Day

Requirements for bicycle riders: Helmet and reflectors

Mandatory winter tyres: Drivers must always adapt the type of tires to the weather conditions.

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks: You need to pay a fee if you want to drive with studded tires in Oslo

Poland

Speed limit on highways: min. 40 km/h; max. 140 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: recommended

Alcohol limit: 0, 2 promille

Lights on during day: mandatory

Toll: exceptional toll on highways

Amount of toll: A1 highways-17,50 PLN/90 km; A2 highways-13 PLN/50 km; A4 highways-8 PLN/60 km

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: no requirements

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Portugal

Speed limit on highways: 120 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: recommended

Toll: on highways and some bridges

Amount of toll: Toll rates are determined by multiplying a unit tariff/kilometre. See <http://www.brisa.pt/PresentationLayer/conteudo.aspx?menuid=121&exmenuid=122>

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: helmet

Mandatory winter tyres: mandatory only for caravan

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Romania

Speed limit on highways: 130 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0 mg/L

Lights on during day: only on national roads or highways

Toll: no

Amount of toll:

Country specific requirements:

Requirements for bicycle riders: yes when driving on public road

Mandatory winter tyres: yes(1/11-31/03)

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Slovakia

Speed limit on highways: 130 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,0 promille

Lights on during day: applicable, mandatory

Toll: on highway vignette (no toll for personal cars)

Amount of toll: 7 €/week, 14€/month, 50€/year

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: 1) helmet compulsory for everyone - adults outside city, children under 15 years also in the city, 2) reflection vest compulsory for everyone by reduced visibility, 3). 0,0 promille alcohol limit

Mandatory winter tyres: winter tires are mandatory in case of continuous snow and ice coat on road

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: no

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Slovenia

Speed limit on highways: 130 km/h

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,5 promille

Lights on during day: mandatory

Toll: vignette for highways

Amount of toll: €15/7d

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: no requirements

Mandatory winter tyres: yes (from 15/11 - 15/03)

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: yes

Remarks:

Spain

Speed limit on highways: 120Km/h (Due to fuel save politics, maximum speed limit on highways is 110Km/h until June 2013)

Reflective jacket in car: mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,25 promille – 0,15 for professional drivers

Lights on during day: not applicable

Toll: some highways request toll

Amount of toll: depends on distance/highway

Country specific requirements: In some cities there are restricted traffic areas, just for residents

Requirements for bicycle riders: helmet not required in cities, but in trunk roads

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

Sweden

Speed limit on highways: 90-120 km/h (depends on location)

Reflective jacket in car: Not mandatory

Alcohol limit: 0,2 promille (blood) 0,1 promille (when breathing out)

Lights on during day: mandatory

Toll: Only in downtown Stockholm (Gothenborg from 2013)

Amount of toll: 10, 15 or 20 SEK/passing out/in of downtown (Prices varies depending on time of day)

Country specific requirements: no

Requirements for bicycle riders: Certain requirements regarding lights (only applies during dark hours). Helmet is mandatory for persons under the age of 15. A bike must have a bell for signalling (no special requirements regarding the bell).

Mandatory winter tyres: Yes, 1st December - 31st march

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: no

Remarks:

United Kingdom

Speed limit on highways: 112 km/h (70 mph)

Reflective jacket in car: No requirements

Alcohol limit: 80 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood

Lights on during day: not applicable

Toll: occasional toll

Amount of toll: N/a

Country specific requirements: London Congestion Charge - Cameras at entrances, exits and around the zone read your number plate. They check it against a database to work out whether you've paid already, are exempt, or have a 100 per cent discount. We keep checking the database until midnight the following charging day.

Speed cameras: Gatso speed cameras - sited at the road side, Gatso speed cameras use radar technology to measure speed, a photo of the back of the vehicle is taken. ; Truvelo speed cameras - sited at the road side, forward facing Truvelo speedcameras use loops in the road to trigger when a speed limit is exceeded. ; SPECS speed cameras - sited on overhead gantries, SPECS speed cameras measures your average speed between two points. ; Peek speed cameras - sited at the road side, Peek speed cameras use loops in the road to trigger when a speed limit is exceeded. ; Speedcurb speed cameras - sited at the road side, Speedcurb speed cameras use loops in the road to trigger when a speed limit is exceeded. ; Watchman speed cameras - sited at the road side, Watchman speed cameras use radar technology to measure speed, a photo of the back of the vehicle is taken. ; Traffic Light cameras - sited at the road side, Traffic Light cameras although mainly used to enforce red lights, these systems can also be used in the same way as a Gatso speed camera. ; DS2 speed cameras - sited at the road side, Traffic Light cameras although mainly used to enforce red lights, these systems can also be used in the same way as a Gatso speed camera. ; Mobile speed cameras - sited at the road side, Traffic Light cameras although mainly used to enforce red lights, these systems can also be used in the same way as a Gatso speed camera.

Requirements for bicycle riders:

Mandatory winter tyres: no

Navigation System with programmed radars allowed: yes

Radar Detectors allowed: yes

Remarks: The London congestion charge is a fee for motorists travelling within the Congestion Charge Zone (CCZ), a traffic area in London. The charge aims to reduce congestion, and raise investment funds for London's transport system. The zone was introduced in central London on 17 February 2003, and extended into parts of west London on 19 February 2007. Though not the first scheme of its kind in the United Kingdom, it was the largest when introduced, and it remains one of the largest in the world. Several cities around the world have referenced London's congestion charge when considering their own schemes. It applies to all motorists. A payment of £10 is required each day for each vehicle, which travels within the zone between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm (Monday-Friday only); a fine of between £60 and £180 is levied for non-payment.