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Headline: Texting and driving more dangerous than drink driving

## Texting and driving more dangerous than drink driving

Motorists driving under the influence are less likely to be involved in an accident than those who text while they drive, according to Jim Higgins, Fine Gael MEP for Ireland North West.

Speaking in the European Parliament in Strasbourg this week to voice his concern over the growing trend of texting while driving, Mr Higgins stated: "Five out of every six seconds you spend texting while driving you look at your phone, glancing at the road only once every five seconds, which is beyond dangerous.

"Recent studies by the Drive Safely Corporation Europe (DSCE) show that a driver who is texting is 23 times more likely to be in an accident than a driver who is not texting. By comparison, a driver who is legally intoxicated is only eight times more likely to be in an accident.

"I recently met with representatives of DSCE and examined the latest anti texting technology (ATT). ATT is activated when a phone user attempts to access their text messaging facilities while travelling at speed. The user must complete a random sequence attention validation test to prove that they are not the driver before they can access their phone's texting facilities.

"This is exactly the kind of forward thinking we need in order to eliminate this deadly phenomenon," said Mr Higgins.