

vti



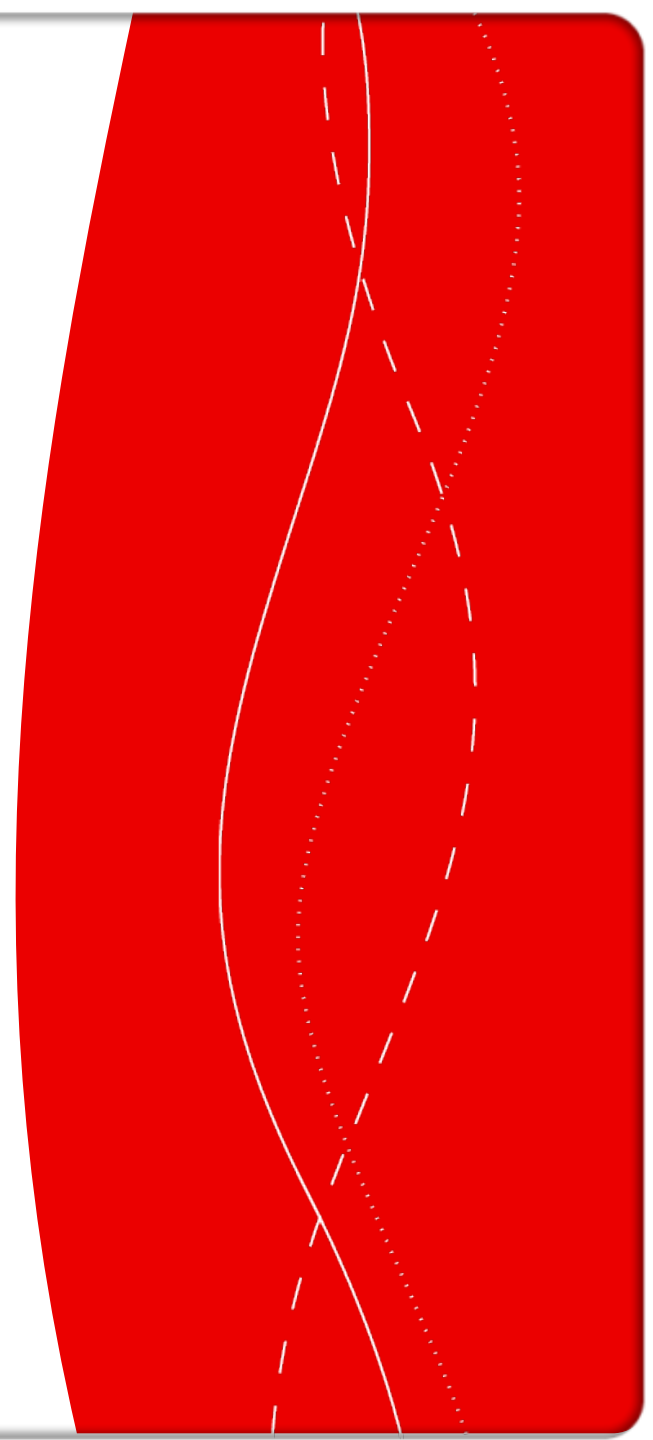
Why Sweden should not do as everybody else does

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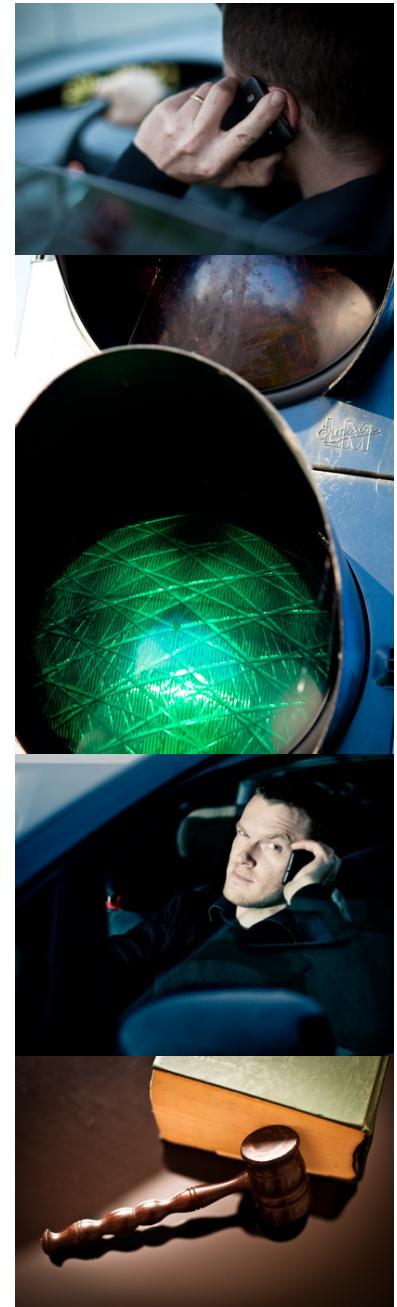
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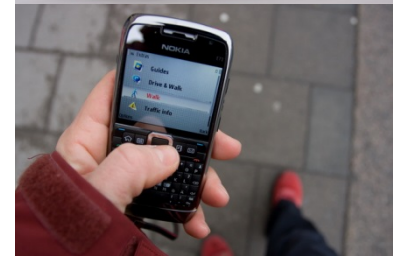
Setting the scene

- Sweden's position re mobile communication in traffic differs from that of most countries
- Sweden is the only country in Europe that has not outlawed handheld phone use specifically BUT: there is a regulation on how to behave in traffic in general
- now we will go through the background and the most recent political debate and actions taken
- we will keep it short and welcome a discussion after the presentation



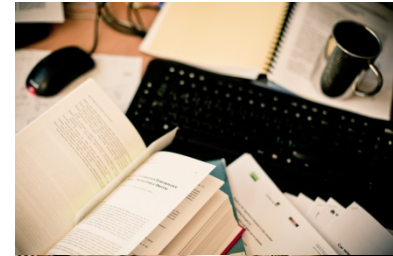
Background

- at around the turn of the millenium: first investigation into effects on road safety for mobile phone use (reported by SNRA in 2003)
- much has changed since then
- due to that, and to due to legislation in other countries, the political discussion and discussions in society, the government decided to take new action
- 2011: VTI was commissioned to investigate mobile communication devices in traffic (literature review)



Government Commission I – Method

- literature search
- relatively recent literature
- more than 400 publications found
- about 150 of them read in more detail
- formulated 9 questions
- answered those based on the literature findings



Government Commission I – Results

- driver behaviour is influenced (and drivers influence their behaviour – self regulation)
- phone use is common, younger and high mileage drivers are high frequency users
- clear association between phone use and crash risk not established (mediating factors btw observed behavioural changes and crash risk)
- in general laws requiring handheld phones do not show a clear effect on behavioural changes or on road safety over time
- hard to come by reliable data



Government Commission II – Method

- expert group (VTI researchers with different areas of expertise)
- reference group (from different fields in traffic and communication)
- literature



Government Commission II – Results

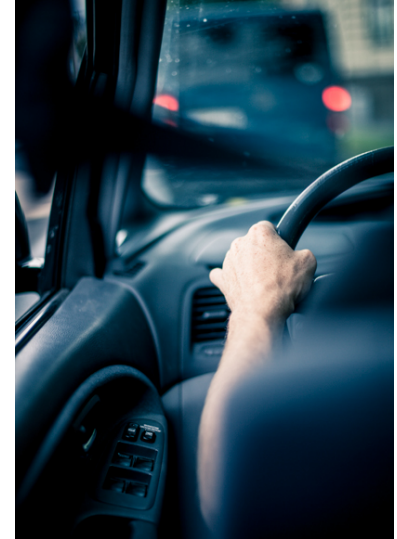
18 countermeasures from different areas:

- technology
- education & information
- financial incentives
- safety promoting legislation
- risks/side effects
- some more, some less "futuristic"



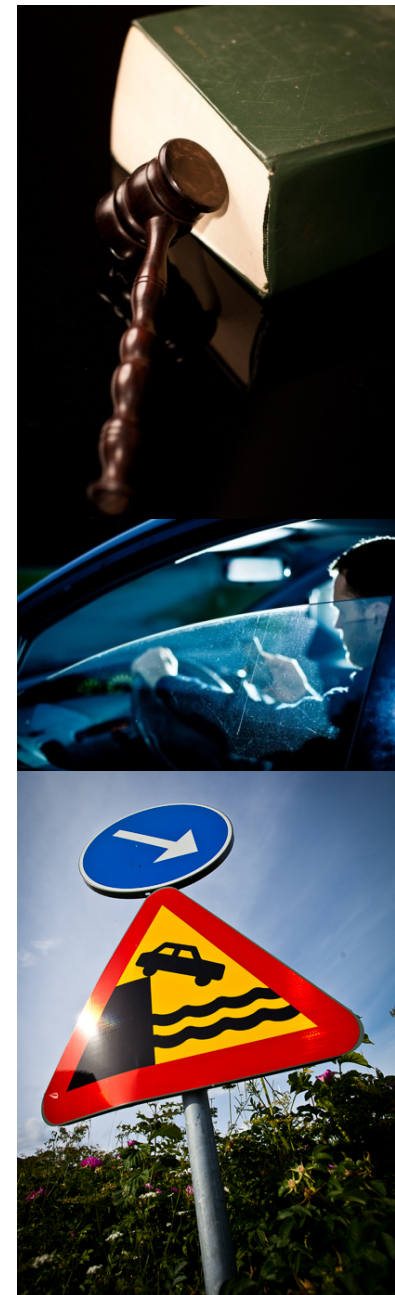
What happened then?

- *December 2012*: the government stated it did not see a good reason to ban handheld phone use
- instead improvement of legislation against careless driving (in general)
- continued political debate, opposition still demanded a ban of handheld phone use and sms
- *27th of March 2013*: debate in parliament, where government was mandated anyway to make a proposal for a law (minority government)
- independent of that, the government proposed changes to the existing regulation, which were sent for comment to 21 authorities, deadline May 2013



Discussion

- we are aware that the legislation against hand held phone use is controversial
- the lack of good and reliable data doesn't make that better (but situation is improving)
- the same data have been interpreted in different ways (e. g. California, Denmark)
- debate on many aspects – handheld vs. handsfree, visual/manual vs voice controlled, etc.
- not even a good definition yet of what we mean by "distracted"
- if there is to be a law, we need to seize the opportunity to study before/after effects



Thank you!

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