



# IRU Istanbul Declaration

Road Transport: Driving Peace and Prosperity!

# "ROAD TRANSPORT, DRIVING PEACE AND PROSPERITY"

*unanimously adopted by the IRU General Assembly and by the  
1900 participants from 70 countries at the 31st IRU World Congress  
in Istanbul, Turkey, on 16 May 2008*

Peace and prosperity depends to a great extent on the improvement of wealth distribution, the development of tourism as well as trade and business exchanges. This increases demand for the mobility of people and goods, which requires efficient road transport systems.

Road transport has become not only a vital production tool, but moreover, the principal land transport mode to ensure sustainable mobility of people and goods.

The IRU with its Members and road transport operators – recognising the role that road transport plays in economic, social and environmental progress and integration – must work in a true public-private partnership with governments to drive peace and prosperity by

## **1. acknowledging the irreplaceable role of road transport**

### **- Governments**

**Recognising that any modern society and economy requires efficient door-to-door transport** which plays an irreplaceable role in supply chains and passenger mobility;

### **- Road transport industry**

**Providing its unique door-to-door, high quality, professional and efficient services** on its own or as a complement to any mode, to economies and to society as a whole;

## **2. facilitating road transport**

### **- Governments**

**Recognising that road transport is the most regulated mode of transport**, whilst it should be facilitated and promoted to drive peace and prosperity;

**Implementing the United Nations Conventions and WTO Agreements** as well as other multilateral legal instruments to facilitate cross-border trade and the free movement of people, goods, road vehicles and their drivers;

**Issuing multilateral long-term multi-entry visas** for drivers;

**Ensuring fair competition** by adapting taxation to cover only road infrastructure and by strengthening and harmonising rules of access to the road transport profession and the market as well as the equal treatment of all transport modes;

**Increasing security** of international road transport and trade by using the UN TIR Convention to implement all the requirements of the WCO SAFE Framework, including AEO status;

### **- Road transport industry**

**Ensuring highest quality services** by enhancing professional competencies of staff through training provided by the network of IRU Academy training institutes;

**Committing to implementing** security, safety and facilitation laws and rules as well as industry guidelines;

## **3. driving sustainable socio-economic and environmental development**

### **- Governments**

**Providing real business incentives** to expedite the penetration of innovative transport technologies and best industry practices;

**Recognising that growing demand for road transport is a consequence of economic growth and social progress** and that road transport already covers costs it causes to infrastructure and environment, thus any further internalisation of proven external costs, wherever applicable, should be based on cost-benefit analysis;

**Establishing, in every country, an energy policy** based on the diversification of oil use, recognising that road transport is totally dependent on oil and currently there is no economically viable and efficient alternative source of energy for this activity; as well as **devising practicable means to stabilise fuel prices** and ensure road transport companies can keep up with cost increases, many of which are imposed by governments themselves in the form of taxes;

**Enhancing road safety** by targeting the scientifically identified main causes of accidents involving commercial vehicles;

**Adopting social regulations** to meet the needs of drivers and companies as well as society's increasing demand for mobility;

- **Road transport industry**

**Improving road safety records** by meeting safety obligations, including driver compliance with the law, ensuring vehicles are well-maintained, by providing appropriate driver training;

**Reducing road transport's energy consumption and environmental impact** through at-the-source measures and innovative best industry practices; while sensibly **including a fuel escalator clause into any transport contract** until the fuel supply and price situation stabilises;

**Promoting co-modality** among various transport modes via modern interfaces;

**Creating a favourable environment, image and social conditions** to attract young people to the profession;

**4. interconnecting businesses in all world markets**

- **Governments**

**Promoting road transport** by providing the adequate infrastructure and implementing the required multilateral facilitation instruments to permit the interconnection of businesses in all world markets as no country is landlocked to road transport;

- **Road transport industry**

**Promoting the New Eurasian Land Transport Initiative (NELTI)**, with the support of governments, along tomorrow's major transport corridors;

With this Declaration, the IRU with its Members renew their pledge to work together in Public-Private Partnership to drive peace and prosperity around the globe.

Janusz Lacny: .....

Martin Marmy: .....

M. Rifat Hisarciklioğlu: .....

Tamer Dinçşahin: .....

Mustafa Yildirim: .....

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*Working together  
for a better future*



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