



Brussels, 1 December 2010

1st IRU/EU PRESIDENCY ROAD TRANSPORT CONFERENCE DECLARATION

“EFFICIENT, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE ROAD TRANSPORT FOR THE FUTURE”

Adopted by the participants from the 27 EU countries at the 1st IRU/EU
Presidency Road Transport Conference and Ministerial Meeting in
Brussels, Belgium on 1 December 2010.

Recognising that:

Commercial road transport is the backbone of strong, dynamic economies and societies and has become a vital production tool and an enabler of sustainable mobility. Interconnecting every business to all major world markets, and most every passenger to his destination, road transport drives economic and social development.

75% of the total volume of goods and over 90% of the total value of goods in the EU is carried by commercial road freight transport, while buses, coaches and taxis account for more than 15% of all passenger movements.

Commercial road transport's logistics, travel and tourism solutions will continue to satisfy the demand generated by the EU economy, society and visitors for its unique, door to door high quality and flexible service.

With the push towards even safer, cleaner and more efficient solutions, no other mode or sector will be able to match the current and future contribution of commercial road transport in driving progress.

There is a need for a new approach as to how private stakeholders reach common accord with national and European political decision-makers over the priorities and policies required to establish an even safer, more environmentally sustainable and efficient transport system in Europe.

Delegates of the 1st IRU/EU Presidency Road Transport Conference, in order to deliver the economic, social and environmental sustainable mobility needs of all EU citizens, call upon EU governments to:

- *Acknowledge the unparalleled contribution of commercial road transport as a vital production tool* interconnecting all transport modes through its unique door-to-door services, speed, flexibility, quality/price ratio, as well as its rapidly improving environmental performance, significant job creation, and contribution to EU GDP.

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- *Create a genuine public-private partnership with the road transport industry*, to ensure that all issues concerning the transport system, and in particular road transport, will be jointly and constructively discussed in order to achieve an even more efficient, safe and sustainable road transport system to the benefit of every EU citizen.

Convinced that the EU's strategic economic, social and environmental goals can only be achieved by enhancing road transport efficiency, safety, security and sustainability, Delegates call upon governments to implement policies which enable:

- *Market driven free modal choice*: Do not discriminate against or penalise any one transport mode, but rather create a fiscal and operational level playing field in which the transport system, and thus all modes, are able to exploit their full potential, and in which co-modality will thrive following the removal of legal, organisational, fiscal and technical barriers.
- *Well directed and funded infrastructure policy*: Making best use of existing infrastructure, filling the missing links in the road network, including ring roads around urban conurbations, and creating efficient links to neighbouring countries will save not only money but increase road safety and security as well as reduce the emissions that needlessly pollute due to frequent stop-and-go traffic.
- *Transport free of crime*: Drivers must work without fear of assault and theft while resting alongside any roads and companies must be able to remain compliant with driving and rest time rules through the responsible authorities' establishment of sufficient secure rest facilities and informing about their precise location and main features, to ensure the security required for the protection of drivers, passengers, vehicles and goods.
- *Single enforcement space*: Common controls and harmonised enforcement best practices across Europe will complement the common regulatory framework for international road transport and guarantee efficiency for operators, protection of employment standards and enhanced control over road safety.
- *Innovation*: The commercial road transport industry has committed to reducing CO₂ emissions through a combination of new vehicle technologies, new logistics concepts, reduced fuel consumption through eco driving techniques and an increased share of collective transport by bus, coach and taxi. New ideas and technology must therefore be encouraged through incentives to realise viable alternative energy sources to oil, better fuel efficiency and lower CO₂ emissions. Efficiencies should be promoted through as yet unimplemented innovations such as the European Modular System and suitable ITS, which will not only make road transport greener but also lead to better rather than more transport while promoting co-modality.
- *Doubling collective passenger transport's share (Smart Move Initiative)*: Buses, coaches and taxis will continue to be safe, environmentally-friendly and affordable alternatives to the private car. Increasing their share is possible through appropriate business-friendly legislation, innovative and competitive services and a level playing field between transport modes, which will allow markets to function more efficiently.
- *Accessible Urban transport policy*: Ensure that major European urban centres can be efficiently provided with goods and that free access are given to coaches, without undue restrictions and that citizens are interconnected to each and every part of their urban environment in a green, safe and affordable way.

- *Sustainable workforce*: Ensured through a new learn to learn training culture as provided, e.g. by the IRU Academy - targeted at managing increasingly complex legal and operational requirements are necessary to optimise safety and environmental performances.
- *Light touch legislation*: Rather than providing a regulation for every transport challenge, a greater emphasis should be placed on the harmonisation and equal enforcement of existing rules, industry-own initiatives and promoting and implementing best practices to achieve common economic, social and environmental goals.

The International Road Transport Union (IRU), its Member National Road Transport Associations and their Road Transport Operators, commit to offer their full cooperation to governmental authorities, in a true public-private partnership, to drive economic, social and environmental progress in the EU by “Working together for a better future”.

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