



1st IRU/EU Presidency Road Transport Conference & Ministerial Meeting
“Efficient, Safe and Sustainable Road Transport for the Future”
Brussels, Belgium, 1 December 2010
Closing Session

Martin Marmy, Secretary General, International Road Transport Union (IRU)

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, IRU Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,
Before concluding this 1st IRU/EU Presidency Conference and Ministerial meeting, on behalf of each you I have a very agreeable task to undertake.

We have just heard from Secretary of State, Mr Schouppe, the important declaration jointly signed by the EU Ministers present here today.

This Ministerial declaration, which clearly mentions the reinforcement of cooperation between the private and the public sectors, is indeed crucial to better achieve our common goal, namely to make road transport more efficient, safer and more sustainable.

After such a positive conclusion, may I invite Secretary of State, Mr Schouppe, to join the IRU President and myself on stage?

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(Etienne Schouppe arrives on stage)

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After such fruitful results, allow me now, on behalf of all the IRU Members and the IRU President, to thank Mr Schouppe once again for having taken this initiative and for his strong personal commitment from the outset to the successful conclusion of this conference.

Such achievements do not come out of the blue. They are the result of the eminent merit displayed by Mr Schouppe and his colleagues in promoting cooperation between EU Governments and the national and international road transport industry.

This is why, in the presence of all these distinguished guests, the IRU President and myself have the honour to award the IRU's highest distinction – the IRU Order of Merit – to Mr Etienne Schouppe for his exceptional achievements.

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(Hand over the IRU Order of Merit to Etienne Schouppe together with Mr Lacny – applause, photo opportunity)

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finally, according to the programme, I have the task of summarising the discussions of this conference and Ministerial meeting in order to allow each of you to take home the important results obtained.

One of the most significant conclusions of our work here in Brussels, as confirmed by all the distinguished speakers, is that road transport will continue to be one of the main modes of transport to meet the mobility needs of EU businesses and citizens.

Today's we have brought forward a range of ideas and concrete examples of how we can better ensure that road transport will be more efficient, safe and sustainable in the future. Let me just mention a few of the main conclusions:

As just mentioned by Secretary of State, Mr Schouppe, the IRU and its Members are not only pleased to note but committed to the reinforcement of cooperation between the private and the public sectors which is crucial to better achieve together the objectives set.

Secondly, the IRU is also pleased to note the general recognition that commercial road transport will remain the backbone of a strong, dynamic economy and society, and will indeed also remain a vital production tool and the key to ensure sustainable development.

Thirdly, due to the efficient, safe and sustainable road transport that we will be able to achieve by working together in the future, no other mode or sector will be able to take over or match the current and future contribution of commercial road transport in driving prosperity and progress in Europe.

Speakers and indeed the conference delegates confirmed that in order to deliver the economic and environmentally sustainable mobility needs of all EU citizens and businesses, EU governments should, as they have done today, continue to acknowledge the vital contribution of commercial road transport and reinforce their cooperation with the road transport industry.

Such cooperation in a public-private partnership with the road transport industry should favour transport policies which enable:

- Market driven free modal choice,
- A well directed and funded infrastructure policy,

- More secure commercial road transport through the provision of information from Governments about the location of secure parking areas and the creation, where needed, of additional truck parking areas,
- A single EU-wide enforcement space to fight crime and to avoid unjust fines,
- Increased focus on innovation and vocational training, notably through reinforced cooperation with the IRU Academy,
- A commitment to promote the Smart Move campaign which aims to double the use of bus and coach transport.

These proposals are all reflected in the text of the Conference Declaration that has been widely circulated.

Please allow me to call on you to adopt the declaration.

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May I consider the Declaration adopted?

Thank you all for your valuable input and future support.

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Allow me to conclude by confirming that the IRU is committed to “work together for a better future” with each of you.

In order to see the future, and following the numerous requests received from many of you, let me confirm that the IRU is committed to “work together for a better future” with the services of the Commission and with future EU Presidencies to organise such events once a year, if possible in the first week of December.

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(Michael Nielsen will take the floor afterwards to inform about the cocktail)

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