

2nd IRU/EU Presidency Road Transport Conference
“Efficient solutions for making road transport greener”

Brussels, Belgium, 29 February 2012

Closing Session

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

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, IRU Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Before concluding this 2nd IRU/EU Road Transport Conference, I have the very agreeable task of inviting you to the Annual IRU Spring Cocktail that will take place a few minutes' walk away at the BelleVue Museum – just follow the signposts and the guidance of the hostesses. We hope it will provide you with the opportunity to digest all that has been discussed today in a relaxed atmosphere, as well as continue discussions on a more informal basis. What better way to end such a fruitful day! However, before releasing you to the BelleVue(!) please allow me to make a few concluding remarks.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have just heard Mr. Hololei the Head of Cabinet of Siim Kallas, summarise the important joint statement made as a result of this conference by the Danish EU Presidency, the European Commission and the IRU. It is my honour, on behalf of all the IRU Members and the IRU President, to thank Mr Kristensen and Mr Kallas for their strong personal commitment from the outset to the successful conclusion of this conference. Allow me also to thank Mr Hololei and the Danish Permanent Representation and indeed all those that have contributed to making this event such a success.

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

Today we have brought forward a range of ideas and concrete examples of how road transport can drive EU growth in an even greener manner in the future, if we give road transport the right place that is the first place, as is the case in BRIC countries.

The IRU and its Members are very pleased to note that the principle available to all other modes for decades - “doing more with less” - is now also hopefully going to be available to road transport – namely through a new legal interpretation that should become available in the near future to hopefully allow the use of the modular concept vehicle combination across borders between consenting EU Member States and thus becoming true to the IRU principle of better rather than more transport.

We also learned that we can do much more with much less by supporting the Smart Move campaign and by stopping the many unjustified privileges given to the low cost airlines or to extend these same privileges to the bus and coach industry.

I think it is fair to say that all speakers, panelists and indeed conference delegates confirmed that, in order to deliver the needed EU growth, to support the economic and environmentally sustainable mobility needs of all EU citizens and businesses, EU Governments and all related Industries should, as they have done here today, continue to acknowledge the vital contribution

of commercial road transport in achieving these objectives and we should all reinforce our cooperation to bring EU growth and even better and greener road transport to all.

Allow me to conclude by confirming that the IRU is committed to “work together for a better future” to drive economic growth in the EU with each and every one of you. Thank you all, once again, for your presence and contributions! “See you again at the third IRU/EU road transport conference next year”!

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