

Closing Speech IRU – conference 1 December 2010

Vice-President of the European Commission,

Chairman of the Committee on Transport and Tourism,

President of the International Road Union,

Secretary General of the International Road Union,

Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This afternoon's discussions have been very enlightening on the subjects of efficient, sustainable and safe road transport.

We have learnt a great deal about the challenges and solutions affecting road transport in the 21st century.

In the Ministerial Declaration, we have put forward several ways to deal with this.

That is why we have decided to coordinate our efforts to:

- Work in partnership with the commercial road transport industry to achieve further source reductions in its environmental footprint, by:
 - encouraging research into cleaner vehicle technologies, viable alternatives to fossil fuels for heavy commercial vehicles;
 - and by providing incentives to facilitate market take-up of the latest technologies and best practices;

- We will coordinate national and regional transport policies to develop and maintain high quality infrastructure and interoperable ITS solutions, while aiming to remove existing barriers to the free movement of people and goods and make the best use of existing or planned infrastructure;

- Integrate the different transport modes into a highly efficient and competitive European transport system that ensures sustainable mobility of people and goods through the creation of a competitive level-playing-field;
- Pursue a well balanced social policy for commercial road transport, taking account of the specific needs of its workforce, such as sufficient protection for workers and professional training, ensuring competitiveness for EU industries;
- Promote harmonised and business-friendly enforcement of all EU rules applicable to road transport;
- Commit to targeting the main causes of accidents involving commercial vehicles, by promoting effective training of professional drivers and other road users and by including a module in national curricula for new private car drivers, on sharing the road with commercial vehicles.

I would like to thank you all for being here today, and for the constructive discussions that have taken place. I would also like to thank the IRU, whose hard work has made this conference a reality.

I now invite my colleagues to sign the declaration.