



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 24 October 2012

15397/12

TRANS 358

INFORMATION NOTE

From: Council General Secretariat
To: Council
Subject: ITS World Congress (Vienna, 22-26 October 2012)
- *Information from the Austrian delegation*

Delegations will find annexed an information note from the Austrian delegation on the above mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "Any Other Business" at the meeting of the Council (**Transport**, Telecommunications and Energy) on 29 October 2012.

Information note from the Austrian delegation**19th ITS World Congress 2012 in Vienna****Ministerial Round Table****22 - 26 October 2012**

The yearly Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) World Congress has become one of the most important transport events in the world and so it provides a platform for the global ITS community to discuss cutting edge development and deployment activities. The ITS World Congress in Vienna from 22 to 26 October 2012 comprised an exhibition area with over 300 companies and 10 000 exhibition visitors, a congress with over 3000 delegates and 200 sessions exploring all aspects of transport grouped under six broad topics, state-of-the-art demonstrations including e-Mobility, cooperative systems and public transport, and many ancillary events.

On Monday, 22 October 2012, the official Opening Day of the 19th ITS World Congress, the Austrian Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology, Doris Bures, and the Vice-President of the European Commission, Siim Kallas, invited Transport Ministers from EU Member States, OECD member countries and BRICS members as well as further ITS relevant countries and international organizations to participate in a Ministerial Round Table on “Making a case for ITS”. The Round Table provided an opportunity to meet and discuss the importance of a coordinated and rapid deployment of ITS on a global scale. The Ministerial Round Table was part of a special Programme including a private visit to the Congress Demonstrations area showcasing the newest ITS developments working in real life conditions.

The Austrian Federal Minister for Transport, Innovation and Technology Doris Bures and the Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Transport Siim Kallas opened the Ministerial Roundtable. The current President of the EU transport Council, Efthymios Flourentzos, presented a summary of the conclusions of the Informal Ministerial Meeting that was held in Cyprus in July 2012 with focus on ITS & Open Data in Transport. The three continental ITS Platforms delivered a common statement on the existing challenges concerning the deployment of ITS.

In the discussion of the Ministerial Round Table political and high level governmental representatives as well as representatives of international organizations (ITF International Transport Forum, IRU - International Road Transport Union, UN/ECE - United Nations Economic Commission, UITP - International Association of Public Transport, IBEC - International Benefits, Evaluation and Costs Working Group, PIARC - Association mondiale de la Route and IRF - International Road Federation) exchanged and discussed best practice examples of ITS technologies in the development and implementation phase as well as needs and challenges. The debate focused on three main areas:

- (1) needs and challenges for the design of successful ITS implementation strategies,
- (2) success stories and results of already implemented ITS policies and its impact on transport, environment and the society in general,
- (3) needs for further deliberations and discussions, both in respected international fora and within the framework of next ITS World Congresses

The success stories mainly focused on following five ITS areas:

- (1) Vehicle 2 Vehicle, Vehicle 2 Infrastructure, Infrastructure 2 Infrastructure Communication Services (Cooperative Systems)
- (2) Co-modal Travel Planner
- (3) Electronic Tolling
- (4) eFreight
- (5) Traffic and traveller information services

The Ministerial Round Table concluded with the acknowledgment of a Joint Statement called **“Smarter on the way” - A common approach for safer, more efficient and greener transport systems and mobility services of the future** to further promote and foster the deployment of ITS worldwide.

JOINT STATEMENT

"Smarter on the way"

A common approach for safer, more efficient and greener transport systems and mobility services of the future

Mobility has become a high priority in today's society and is central to our individual well-being and to our common economic development. Mobility of people and goods makes it possible to share ideas and products with people from around the world and also impacts choices for business locations.

At the same time, the ever increasing demand for mobility has created or amplified the major transport issues: accidents and casualties, traffic congestion, emissions including greenhouse gases, and energy consumption and dependency, to name but some.

Today's transport policy challenge is to strike a balance between ensuring mobility for people and goods while avoiding or reducing negative consequences, thus ensuring long-term sustainability in a double sense. In addition, new challenges arise from the rapid pace of urbanisation and ageing populations. These trends have led to an increasingly complex transport system and make it more difficult for policy makers and industry alike to take the most appropriate policy and investment decisions conducive to creating a sustainable transport system.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) solutions are a key enabler in addressing several of these challenges. By collecting, exchanging and using data and information related to the mobility of persons and goods, ITS can provide appropriate and flexible management and information tools for all actor groups involved (policy, administration, infrastructure operators, transport service providers, industrial and private users) and therefore improve daily mobility for all. The implementation of ITS can also create employment and contribute to economic growth. Thus ITS have to be seen as an effective instrument for policy makers to achieve transport policy objectives with respect to safety, efficiency and environmental sustainability and in order to save public funds. Today's challenge is to deploy ITS in a coordinated and harmonised manner. To do so we need optimal interaction between people and technologies, bringing synergies between modes of transport to offer interconnected mobility that is environmentally and user friendly, safe and efficient.

As the ITS application needs may differ from region to region, the biggest potentials and benefits can only be realised if the foundations of ITS solutions are put in place in an interoperable and harmonised, seamless and user-friendly way, and ideally on a global scale.

The ITS World Congresses as drivers for global ITS deployment

A shared approach to accelerate the deployment of ITS solutions on a global scale could boost quick and effective implementation of coherent and consistent ITS applications, offering benefits to all users. The ITS World Congresses should take a pivotal role in such approach and the global ITS community should take an active role in identifying the most prominent topics for international agenda setting on ITS deployment.

Therefore, the below mentioned Ministers, herewith declare their support

- for an increased political commitment to integrating appropriate ITS technologies and services into national transport policies, and

request

- the global ITS community to identify upcoming challenges, opportunities and success stories supporting a more accelerated deployment of ITS solutions on a global scale, and

invite

- the Ministerial Round Tables of future ITS World Congresses to discuss progress made so far and to identify priority issues for international agenda setting, inviting relevant international organisations and legal bodies to act.
