



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 27 March 2009**

**8177/09**

**TRANS 130**

**INFORMATION NOTE**

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From : General Secretariat

To : Council

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Subject : Informal Council of Transport Ministers (Litoměřice, 29 April 2009)  
- Information from the Presidency

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Delegations will find attached an information note from the Presidency on the above-mentioned subject in support of its intervention under "any other business" at the TTE Council on 30 March 2009.

**Information from the Presidency on the upcoming informal meeting of the  
EU Transport ministers in Litoměřice town**

The informal meeting of the EU Transport ministers will take place in the historic town of Litoměřice, in the Region of North Bohemia, on April 29, 2009.

This meeting is going to be focused on issues of deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). The Czech Presidency considers this theme to be very important and topical not only due to recent Commission's initiatives in this area<sup>1</sup> but also in the context of current economic crisis. The need for progress in deployment of these innovative measures which among other benefits largely contributes to the efficiency of European transport system and to the revival of the overall European economy is more urgent than as it was anytime in the past.

There is no doubt that ITS facilitate smoothness of traffic flows and reduction of congestions we face on European roads so frequently. In view of yearly congestion costs for European economy this single asset represents a satisfactory argument for giving a great attention to solving the problems in question. A significant capacity of ITS is evident also in development of relevant applications having a positive impact to development of the existing industrial sector. Appropriate incentives for ensuring an increased demand for these modern technologies in Europe, either at the Member States level or the EU-level, would lead to strengthening of the role of the European industry on world markets in the future and to creating new job opportunities. Support of the conditions for innovative measures has been set up accordingly as one of the objectives of the European Economic Recovery Plan adopted by the European Commission in November 2008.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Communication from the Commission – Action Plan for the Deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in Europe (COM(2008) 886 final)

<sup>2</sup> Communication from the Commission – European Economic Recovery Plan (COM(2008) 800 final)

As it follows from the very motto of the meeting - “Intelligent mobility without barriers” the Presidency intends to call upon the Ministers to express in the discussion their views on barriers in development of ITS in the EU. The Presidency i.a. intends to react to the Council conclusions on the Action plan for deployment of ITS which adoption is expected at the TTE Council meeting on March 30, 2009. These conclusions stress the need for “further identification of already existing and upcoming barriers to the deployment of ITS in the EU and development of a short, medium and long-term strategy to remove these barriers.”<sup>3</sup>

There is a question to be arising what role the EU should play in this respect. Should it be a driving force and an initiator of all the principal decisions in this area or rather a moderate co-ordinator of measures and decisions adopted by responsible authorities of individual Member States? Together with the Action plan for deployment of ITS, the European Commission submitted a proposal for a Directive which aims at setting up a framework for ITS implementation in the road transport<sup>4</sup>. The Presidency would like to invite the Ministers to give their opinions to the question if, in accordance with the European Commission opinion, they consider this legislative proposal as a key part of the long-term strategy of the EU in the area of ITS and what, in their opinion, its scope should be.

During the afternoon part of the meeting the Presidency would like to initiate a debate on concrete ways of ITS application. The road traffic safety is one of the transport areas where broader use of ITS applications can give very positive results. The Czech Presidency considers this area to be one of its priorities and therefore would like to devote the part of the informal meeting to discuss a suitable role the ITS could play in the framework of the future European road safety strategy. The Presidency takes up also interest in how the conclusions of the E-safety conference held in Berlin in May 2007 are fulfilled. Mr. Christer Karlsson (Sweden, ITS President) will take part as a key note speaker in this discussion. During the day, the Ministers will have an opportunity to visit the exhibited “E-safety” truck which presents a practical use of ITS applications to increase road safety.

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<sup>3</sup> See point 5 of these conclusions (8005/09 TRANS 121 TELECOM 58 IND 29)

<sup>4</sup> Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in the field of road transport and for interfaces with other transport modes (COM(2008) 887 final)

Last but not least the Ministers would reflect the question of utilization of ITS application in the intelligent road tolling systems. Professor Petr Moos, a dean of the Faculty of Transport of the Prague Technical University and a former Czech Minister of Transport, will focus on the theme as a key note speaker.

This meeting will be accompanied by the following social events. A dinner will informally open the meeting in the Hilton Prague hotel in the evening on April 28, 2009 and a gala dinner will conclude the Ministers' meeting on April 29, 2009. A parallel cultural and sight-seeing program for accompanying partners of the meeting participants is prepared for the same day which will end at the aforementioned dinner.

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