NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	delegations
Subject:	Informal Meeting of Ministers for Transport and Telecommunications (Nicosia, 17 July 2012) – Presidency conclusions

As an outcome of the Informal Meeting of Ministers for Transport and Telecommunications on 17 July 2012, delegations will find attached, for their information, the Presidency conclusions, which take into account the different interventions of the participants in the meeting.

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Presidency Conclusions

Ministers discussed how to best integrate two central policies of the EU, namely the Digital Agenda for Europe and the EU Transport Policy, in order to remove barriers and acquire the full benefits from the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). A modern and well developed transport and telecommunications infrastructure is vital for the growth of the EU economy and the enhancement of its competitiveness. By promoting the development of public open data policies and by addressing multimodality through the effective development of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), the aim of the meeting was to contribute substantially to the successful implementation of ITS.

Opening up public data resources, which is one of the key actions of the Digital Agenda for Europe, will facilitate the access to transport data (especially public transport information) and its availability for re-use. This will foster the emergence of reliable multimodal travel information and the creation of safe and effective transport management services.

During the first session, discussions focused on the role of the re-use of open data as a key element to smart transport. Working towards a Pan-European Data Portal and addressing barriers to data access as well as their effect on transport was also highlighted.

Discussions during the second session focused on the potential of deploying ITS and Multimodality in and between cities. The need for the development of European Multimodal Journey Planners and integrated ticketing, the wider deployment of ITS on the Trans-European Transport Networks and their contribution in fostering sustainable mobility in urban areas was addressed.

Open Data as Key Element to Smart Transport

The main results on the discussion on "Open data as key element to Smart Transport", can be summarised as follows:

1. Ministers widely ACKNOWLEDGE the enormous economic and social potential of opening up public data for re-use, including that of transport data, as it can be a source for innovative products and services and a real engine for economic growth and job creation.

2. Ministers also WELCOME the proposal for the review of the Directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information (PSI) and AGREE to continue the work towards its rapid adoption, in collaboration with the European Parliament and the European Commission.

3. Ministers strongly SUPPORT the plans for the development of a pan-European Open Data Portal and ACKNOWLEDGE the benefits of actively contributing to this portal by bringing in their national open datasets. Furthermore, Ministers UNDERLINE the need for the adoption of (a) standards that ensure interoperability, and (b) measures to address privacy protection, security and confidentiality of data, and data quality.

4. Ministers STRESS the fundamental role that data plays in developing and providing related Intelligent Transport Services and the importance to ensure the availability of this data, as well as its accessibility. Furthermore, Ministers ACKNOWLEDGE that limited transport data falls within the scope of the PSI Directive and is already being made available for re-use in the majority of Member States.

5. Ministers also STRESS the need for making transport information better available for innovative products and services, such as the reliable multimodal integrated transport system, and INVITE the Commission to further explore together ways to improve access and reuse of transport data.

Deploying Intelligent Transport Systems and Multimodality in and between cities

The main results of the discussion on "Deploying Intelligent Transport Systems and Multimodality in and between cities", can be summarised as follows:

6. Ministers AGREE on the importance of the existing policy framework (composed of the ITS Action Plan and the ITS Directive) to support the development and use of Intelligent Transport Systems. Ministers WELCOME the work undertaken by the Commission, with the support of Member States, in preparation of relevant specifications to be adopted in the coming years, which will facilitate interoperability of systems and standardisation at pan-European level.

7. Ministers ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts by the Members States to establish and support multimodal journey planners at national level, and those of the Commission to further promote the emergence in the market of pan-European Multi-Modal Journey Planners offering cross-border door-to-door transport solutions, including interoperable and multimodal scheduling, information, online reservation systems and smart ticketing. Furthermore, the Ministers SUPPORT the Commission's initiative in establishing the necessary conditions to ensure the availability, accessibility and exchange of all relevant information for all modes of transport in order to facilitate the emergence of truly Europe wide Multimodal Transport Planning and Information Services;

8. Ministers RECOGNISE that the accessibility and quality of data are key challenges in establishing functional multimodal journey planners and integrated ticketing. Ministers WELCOME the efforts of the Commission to ensure access to transport data, notably through the "open data" policy, in co-operation with Member States, public and private entities.

9. Ministers RECOGNISE that the lack of funding is a significant obstacle in the deployment of ITS.

10. Ministers ACKNOWLEDGE the contribution of Easyway for the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems in Europe.

11. Ministers EMPHASIZE the need for securing sufficient EU resources for the financial period 2014-2020 notably through the Connecting Europe Facility for the deployment of ITS on TEN-T, focusing on a corridor based end to end multimodal approach.

12. Ministers CONSIDER Private-Public Partnerships as an efficient means to deliver and implement ITS projects and WELCOME the positive approach of the Commission towards PPP and alternative financial instruments.

13. Ministers NOTE that the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities, launched 10 July 2012 by the Commission, is one of the instruments which can contribute to the deployment of urban ITS solutions through dedicated actions, including funding.

14. Ministers UNDERLINE the need for Member States to further share their experiences of urban ITS deployment and WELCOME in that respect the work of the Commission's Urban ITS Expert Group in terms of collection of best practices for urban ITS as well as the dedicated "guidelines for urban ITS" in the fields of traffic management, traffic information and smart ticketing solutions. The Ministers URGE the mobilisation of all available funding instruments (EU, National or Private) to support ITS deployment in urban areas.

15. Ministers CONCLUDE that a lot of good work is being done on ITS deployment across the TEN-T corridors, but still a lot remains to be done in this area, such as supporting the development of pan-European multimodal journey planners. It is RECOGNIZED that Member States are at different maturity levels in terms of ITS deployment and for this reason the Ministers URGE the Commission to further promote exchange of knowledge, good practices and further deployment of ITS across Europe.

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