INFORMATION NOTE

From: IT Delegation
To: Council
Subject: Ministerial Conference on Global Environment and Energy in Transport - MEET 2 (Rome, 8 and 9 November 2010)
– Briefing by the Italian delegation

Delegations will find annexed a note from IT 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 2 and 3 December 2010.
A Ministerial Conference on Global Environment and Energy in Transport (MEET) was held in Rome on November 8-9, with the participation of delegations from a number of EU Member States and numerous other Countries from the Balkans, the Mediterranean area, Asia and Africa.

A final Declaration was approved (which has been circulated) in which the Participants stated among other things that:

- “transport is a significant contributor of GHG emissions” and that they “share a long-term global vision of realizing low-carbon and low-pollution transport systems” and commit themselves “to working effectively and collaboratively with International Organizations and individual countries in order to fulfil this vision”, “combatting [climate change] under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and its Kyoto Protocol, for those countries who are signatory States, and take note in particular of the recent Copenhagen Accord”;

- they “recognize the global nature of the international aviation and shipping sectors … express support and expectation to ICAO and IMO as the competent UN bodies on aviation and maritime issues, respectively, and encourage them to continue to lead in developing globally effective measures to address GHG emissions from international aviation and shipping;

- they also believe that “sustainable and updated transport policies are a condition for economic and social development” and consider that “meaningful efforts should be made to mitigate the impact of domestic transport policies on local, regional and global environment”; and that
“while it is not for MEET to set international standards for reductions, substantial improvements can be achieved at national and/or regional level” by adopting among others the following policies:

- “an integrated domestic approach to national transport strategies, addressing all modes of transport, fuels and vehicles, and using a variety of policy measures and instruments
- more efficient “intelligent” transport systems;
- an appropriate mixture of cost-effective measures including legislation, regulations, economic incentives and consumer information…;
- strengthening international cooperation to develop and harmonize procedures for testing fuel efficiency or measuring GHG emissions through the UNECE/WP.29 and other regional or international fora”.

Suggesting an innovative approach, MEET also focused on the complexity of planning transport means and policies in that “developing solutions in the transport sector may also involve the responsibility of national agencies other than those dealing strictly with transport matters”, depending on the structure of each Government’s cabinet, and urged to look at ”industry as an appropriate interlocutor with a view of coordinating more effectively private endeavours and public responsibilities”, and pledged to “consider the idea of associating the whole transport industry to our endeavours as we will deem it appropriate”. In this framework, Participants declared themselves “ready to explore, in particular, how automotive industry’s priorities and needs could be better represented to governments with reference to an integrated approach, technology neutral policies and joint fuels and vehicles evaluation.”

The final Declaration has also endorsed a number of practical actions, such as considering “ways and means to make our national expertise, both public and private, available” to “countries which may not possess the required expertise or financial means to adequately assess their transport needs” but are ready to “implement sustainable transport policies in line with the Declaration”.

A strong emphasis was placed on road safety, where the Declaration states “that special focus should be given to introducing all countries to the basic concepts and options in this area”. In this framework, Italy has volunteered to promote an ad hoc program to this effect.
On another practical action adopted by the Conference, the EU Commission offered to “convene a meeting during which it will illustrate the « Single European Sky », initiative based on Functional Airspace Blocks and invite all other countries to present initiatives that they are pursuing in that field, as examples of achieving greater environmental efficiency in air transport”.

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