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DIRECTORATE G – Logistics, innovation, co-modality & maritime transport
Logistics, innovation, intelligent transport & co-modality

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NOTE FOR THE FILE

Subject: Summary Report ITS Open Workshop 26 March 2008, CHAR-S3

Location : CHAR-S3 Rue de la Loi 170 – 1040 Brussels – Interpretation is provided in FR-EN-DE (with speaking allowed in ES-IT)

Participants : Between 150 and 200 participants from various stakeholders (Member States, industry organisations, manufacturers, infrastructure operators) attended the workshop and actively contributed to the discussion.

Chairman: Fotis Karamitsos, Director, DG TREN/G

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed all participants in the name of the different Commission services involved in the preparation of the ITS action plan. After presenting the day's agenda, he reminded the participants of the "raison d'être" of this workshop and the future ITS Action Plan, namely the necessity for the Commission to consider the policy objectives that ITS can help support, and the need to concentrate the efforts on the added value of a possible Community Action around ITS to reach those important policy objectives.

Acknowledging the fact that some stakeholders have already provided an input to the discussion, through i.a. the completion of the ITS questionnaire available on line, the Chair stressed again that the goal of the workshop is to come and agree on a list of a limited number of priority actions (5 to 7) that would constitute the core of the ITS Action Plan.

2. STATE OF PROGRESS IN THE PREPARATION OF THE ITS ACTION PLAN

Willy Maes, from DG TREN/G3, presented the different steps which have been taken so far in the preparation of the ITS Action Plan, i.e. the White Paper Revision "Keep Europe Moving" in June 2006, the set-up of the ITS Steering Group within the Commission in

April 20007, the preparation of a roadmap outline in October 2007, the interviews conducted with stakeholders between November 2007 and January 2008, the launch of a study for the impact assessment, a first workshop held on 22 February 2008, the questionnaire submitted on-line in the beginning of March, and today's open consultation workshop.

3. OUTCOME OF THE PREVIOUS CONSULTATIONS OF ITS STAKEHOLDERS

John Miles, ITS expert from Ankerbold International Ltd, presented the outcome of the stakeholder interviews conducted in the period November 2007 to January 2008. The 13 interviews were done with representatives of the public sector (Ministries, agencies, road and city authorities) and of the private sector (toll road operators, automobile manufacturers, digital mapmakers, value added service providers and telecom operators).

Listening to and discussing with these stakeholders, the following items were addressed :

- the rationale behind an ITS Action Plan
- the existing barriers
- the priority areas
- the possible instruments to be used.

After the comprehensive presentation, the Chair opened the floor for questions and comments. The following topics were addressed:

- A clarification on the apparent "misalignment" or disparity between the EU policy and progress in ITS and the Member States (MS). Some MS e.g. Sweden are indeed more advanced in the use of ITS in their policies, but it is therefore the idea to create and support some mechanism to share the experience of the more advanced MS, and have all MS use the benefits of ITS deployment through EU action.

- ITS is to be considered as a tool and this should be stressed in the plan : ITS is not the end. There is a need for an EU coordination group or body (the EIC) but some caution is required in its establishment taking into account other existing similar bodies. The Chairman welcomed these remarks and reminded that what is important is to have the "full" picture from the EU side, and to associate this with a EU policy dimension.

- Clarification was requested on the interview process in terms of profiles of interviewees and the results of the on-line questionnaires. The interviews were conducted with senior directors level people at companies mentioned before. The on-line questionnaire process was still on-going and at least 10 written comments had already been received from various stakeholders and associations.

- Where did the mentioned top priorities come from, and were industry decision makers interviewed? The priorities were policy related and indeed industry decision makers have been interviewed. The Chairman reminded however that the idea behind the exercise was not to have an industry push, but it was really a policy initiative at EU which was required.

- The approach and outcome were interesting but wondered how the ITS Action Plan would address the fact that there had been and there is a lot of R&D already being done? It is indeed the conclusion that more R&D is not needed, but rather deployments and organisational arrangements between the different stakeholders.

- A reference to the EU navigation Plan of 2004 should be considered and included in the present work. The Chairman mentioned that a revision on this Navigation Plan is ongoing within the Galileo Unit of DG TREN and that only 1 or 2 representatives of navigation systems industry had been interviewed in the current stakeholder process.

4. ANALYSIS AND FIRST EXCHANGES ON THE CONTENT OF THE DRAFT ACTION PLAN

Ben Van Houtte, Head of Unit of DG TREN/G3, introduced the distributed discussion paper, by presenting the objectives and the structure of the proposed draft Action Plan. He stressed that this work was in progress and that this workshop would contribute to feed the discussion and the current process.

After this introduction, Eric Kenis, from DG TREN/G3, described in more details each of the "vertical" core areas and "horizontal" areas for comments and discussion. The main comments made on the different areas are attached in a powerpoint presentation.

5. RESULTS FROM THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

COWI presents briefly the current status of the work regarding the impact assessment.

6. CONCLUSION

Fotis Karamitsos thanks all the participants for their useful feedback and invites them again to provide written contributions by the end of the week.

Annex Powerpoint presentation

