



## **Meeting of the IRF Working Group "Safer Roads"**

held on 15 September 2008  
Geneva, Switzerland

### **Minutes**

#### Present

Lalo	Jean	SOMARO
Courson	Anne-Claire	Signature
Christodoulou	Haris	Public Works Department, Ministry of Communications and Works of Cyprus
Vorster	Hilton	South African Road Federation
Evdorides	Harry	University of Birmingham
Novikov	Maria	IRF

#### Apologies

Prommer	Arnold	Voestalpine Krems Finaltechnik GmbH
Lee	George	Road Safety Markings Association / Highways Industry Confederation
Silyanov	Valentin	State Technical University MADI
Harris	Richard	WSP Group
Nuytens	Rik	3M Europe SA
Redlberger	Mathias	Delta Block Europa GmbH
Schliesing	Axel	SGGT Strassenausstattungen
Kekeis	Kent	Quixote Transportation Safety, Inc.
Denman	Owen	Barrier Systems Inc.
Roffé	Jean-Claude	Colas SA France
Heinrich	Jaroslav	HBH Projekt

#### **1. Opening, apologies, adoption of agenda and last meeting's minutes**

Jean Lalo welcomed the Working Group members, presented the apologies and introduced the agenda which was accepted as presented. The minutes of the kick-off meeting in Amsterdam on 3 April 2008 were adopted.

#### **2. Work Plan on selected themes**

Prior to the meeting the secretariat circulated a document containing a brief overview of each of the eight topics which the Working Group agreed to work on at the kick-off meeting in Amsterdam on 3 April 2008. In response to this general document the South African Road Federation (SARF) formed a subcommittee which studied the topics and submitted a position paper giving their observations and proposals. Hilton Vorster presented this comprehensive document emphasising the proposals formulated therein.

The Working Group then addressed each topic separately in light of the documents circulated by the secretariat and determined the following work plan:

An online knowledge base will be created on the IRF Geneva web page devoted to road safety where practitioners from developing countries could get easy access to best practices in relation to various issues as listed below.



## **i. Accident statistics**

Hilton Vorster will submit a document explaining an approach to dealing with hazardous locations where little or no data on accidents is available, including checklists for road assessment and prioritising projects. The management process explained therein has proven effective in South African municipalities. It involves acting on local level with the involvement of the community to identify hazardous locations, prioritise sites for improvement, allocate the municipal budget and evaluate the success of the measures implemented. A list of websites where accident statistics and data analysis best practices may be accessed will be provided on the IRF Geneva road safety web page under this heading.

## **ii. Road accident knowledge base**

A clearing house of road safety countermeasures shall be constituted, where the countermeasures are split into categories in accordance with the type of safety hazard and linking them to various measures that could be applied on the basis of theoretical research supporting such solutions in order that the user could obtain a full picture of all the elements taken into account for each individual measure. For this purpose IRF members will be asked to contribute with before/after pictures of projects they realised in developing countries. Links to other websites with information on best practices in road safety shall also be provided.

## **iii. Road safety guides**

In collaboration with selected members the secretariat will draft a guide on safe road infrastructure to be published end 2009. In addition the IRF Geneva road safety web page will provide a database of guidelines with links to websites where they may be downloaded for free. Exhaustive checklists should be made available to ensure practitioners in developing countries who require support in their work would cover all the necessary points. A procedure should be put in place where users may comment on the guides in the database, for example saying that they applied such guidelines and advising of the outcome. It is very important to provide feedback from practitioners in developing countries through an online forum to collect information on success stories and report missing information.

## **iv. Safe roads and driving simulator**

It was decided to include this topic under topic 5: Road safety management training courses.

## **iv. Sharing the roads**

A database of traffic calming measures and other measures aimed at pedestrian safety (such as communication campaigns) that have been applied in developing countries will be constituted.

## **v. Road safety management training courses**

IRF members will be asked to contribute candidacies to constitute a database of experts who could be solicited to give a training course. It was decided to recommend the driving simulator as a tool for professional drivers (utility vehicles, construction vehicles, emergency and police vehicles).

## **vi. Speed control and ITS**

It was decided to rename this topic "Speed and traffic control devices". The database of traffic calming measures will be constituted under this topic and a link to it will be provided from topic 4: sharing the roads.

## **vii. Adherence to road surface**

It was decided to rename this topic "Road surface characteristics" so that defects in the road surface, such as rutting, potholes, dead branches on road, dust, that can lead to an accident could be reflected in this section of the IRF Geneva road safety web page. Information on how road surface can improve braking distances as well as recommendations on the choice of surface could be obtained from here.

# INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION (IRF)

FEDERATION ROUTIERE INTERNATIONALE

[www.irfnet.org](http://www.irfnet.org)



### 3. Road safety activities of IRF Brussels and Washington PCs

The secretariat gave an overview of road safety related activities of the Brussels and Washington Programme Centres and emphasised that they address road safety in their own geographical scope.

### 4. Participation in the work of ISO/PC 241

IRF will participate in the work of ISO Project Committee 241 to develop a new management system standard for improving road safety.

### 5. IRF Guideline on safe road infrastructure

The secretariat will approach IRF members with expertise in the designated areas to solicit their contribution.

### 6. Next meeting

On the kind invitation of the Chairman the next meeting will take place on Monday 27th April 2009 in Paris.

### 7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

### Summary of decisions

The Working Group "Safer Roads" decided to constitute a road safety web page on the IRF Geneva website offering a knowledge base for use by practitioners in developing countries on the following topics:

- I. Accident statistics
- II. Road accidents knowledge base (FAQ, glossary, e-learning)
- III. Road safety guides
- IV. Sharing the roads
- V. Road safety management training courses
- VI. Speed and traffic control devices
- VII. Road surface characteristics

In addition, IRF Geneva will be drafting a new IRF publication: guidelines for safe road infrastructure intended for by practitioners in developing countries.

**The secretariat will constitute a web page in accordance with the observations of the Working Group and post it on the IRF Geneva website. IRF members who feel they could contribute in any of the above activities are invited to contact the secretariat at [mnovikov@irfnet.org](mailto:mnovikov@irfnet.org) or by phone +41 22 306 02 60.**

Geneva, January 2009

**SIGNATURE**

signed: Jean Lalo, Chairman