



IRF Working Group Environment
Geneva, 14 May 2008

MINUTES

Participants

Dimitris Mandalozis, Attikes Diadromes S.A., Greece – Chairman
Benedicte Corbier, Michelin, France
Car Reller, Transit, New Zealand
Jean Lalo, SOMARO, France
Claude Morzier, COLAS, Switzerland
Sibylle Rupprecht, Director General, IRF Geneva
Susanna Zammataro, IRF Geneva

Points addressed

1. Presentation and discussion on the contributions received for the Best Industry Practices publication.

The Chairman recalled that at its last meeting on 25th of February, the group had decided to compile a publication reporting on remarkable and innovative examples of IRF members' commitment to environment. A call for contribution and relative ToR have been addressed by e-mail to the entire IRF membership. The deadline for contribution was set for 17th April. He notified the group that only eight contributions had reached the secretariat so far and six were still pending. A discussion on the different reasons for such a shortage followed. It was suggested to: 1. broaden the list of topics to be covered; 2. not refer to "Best practices" because this might give the impression that the bar has been set too high; 3. solicit more the consultancy groups for input.

Decision

Taking also into consideration budgetary constraints of the Geneva Programme Centre, the group decided to have the publication finalised after the Geneva conference in November. Members agreed that this should leave more time to collect a significant number of contributions to be included in the publication.

Action

The secretariat will circulate a new call for contributions with more clear instructions as to what is expected and the list of contributions received so far.

2. Roads and Environment Conference of 10-11 November 2008

The secretariat recalled that the conference will address this year the problem of emissions and pollution and solicited comments and suggestions on the conference outline that was circulated in advance. The secretariat invited in particular the members to come up with names of speakers or any idea that could help making the conference more alive and possibly interactive. Car Reller suggested to look for concrete examples of pilot projects and to look among PhD students for speakers. By taking up the invitation of Sibylle Rupprecht, he accepted to present at the Geneva Conference their project on the assessment of sensitive environments at risk from highways run-offs. Jean Lalo suggested inviting a representative of the IPCC and to include among the topics addressed during the conference the question of "carbon pricing". He also proposed to work on the idea of an interactive questionnaire or short movies to ensure greater implication from the audience.

Decision

Members have agreed to provide input to the secretariat on experts, speakers and topics by 30 May.

Action:

Jean Lalo will provide to the secretariat a CD rom with all COLAS English movies related to environment.

3. Policy statement

The chairman recalled that IRF has published policy statements on road safety, infrastructure financing and other topics but has still none on the environment. He told members that this was the right moment to start working on it especially in the light of the Geneva Conference. Sibylle Rupprecht clarified that the procedure for policy statements takes 6 to 9 months since the draft has to be circulated and agreed upon by the three IRF offices and then submitted to the entire membership for adjustment and approval.

Decision

Carl Reller, Dimitris Mandalozis and Susanna Zammataro will start working on a draft to be circulated as soon as possible to the group. Members will provide input as to the topics to be addressed in the document.

Action

SZ will circulate to WG members the entire collection of IRF policy statements. Car Reller will send to the secretariat a copy of Transit policy statement on environment for inspiration.

4. Decision on time and venue for the next WG meeting

The group has decided to meet up in Geneva on the morning of 12 November (right after the Geneva conference). A conference call might be arranged before that date if necessary.

Geneva, 22.05.08

Susanna Zammataro