



**IRF Working Group Environment  
Geneva, 25 February 2008**

**MINUTES**

**Participants**

Dimitris Mandalozis, Attikes Diadromes S.A., Greece - Chairman  
Sibylle Rupprecht, Director General, IRF Geneva  
Jean Lalo, SOMARO, France  
Stéphane Quint, EUROVIA, France  
Claude Morzier, COLAS, Switzerland  
Dr. Reinhard Pfliegel, Austria-Tech, Austria  
Marc De Sauvages, Marc de Sauvages & Partners, Belgium  
Jens Hügel, IRU, Switzerland  
Mark Vogelgesang, trainee IRF Geneva  
Susanna Zammataro, IRF Geneva

**Points addressed**

1. Exchange of views on contributions received by members
2. Planning of WG activities
3. Preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IRF Roads and Environment Conference
4. Environment Knowledge Centre for IRF Website
5. Miscellaneous

***1. Exchange of views on contributions received by members***

The chairman of the WG, Dimitris Mandalozis from Attikes Diadromes S.A. (Greece) made a brief introduction recalling some of the reasons that pushed IRF members to set up such a WG and his will to make the WG function as a real platform for dialogue providing concrete outputs. He expressed his disappointment concerning the poor number of contributions received from members and tried to list a number of possible reasons for this. The conclusion emerged from the discussion with the members present at the meeting was that companies are at the moment pretty much focused on energy savings and emissions reduction and that this should be the new perspective from which to look into the three themes identified at the kick-off meeting: materials, noise and water.

After briefly reviewing the submissions received from members (see the document *Contributions Overview* attached), the group engaged in a general exchange of views on the importance of emissions reduction, on the problem of noise - a priority in developed countries but not in developing and emerging countries - and on the importance of biodiversity conservation. The group debated long on the best way to present members' experience and research on the three identified themes and on the opportunity to have distinct recommendations to be addressed to high and low income countries. The group decided finally to take up the suggestion of the IRU representative for a publication reporting on remarkable and innovative examples of IRF members' commitment to environment. The objective of the publication being that of spreading knowledge and demonstrate progress in the development and implementation of sustainable practices in the design, construction and operation of roads.

***2. Planning of WG activities***

Following up the decision to compile a publication, the chairman proposed to designate a leader for each theme to be addressed. The objective being that of supporting the secretariat in the review of the submissions received by members. Jean Lalo (SOMARO) and Stéphane Quint (EUROVIA) volunteered for the *Materials*, Reinhard Pfliegel (Austria-Tech) for *Noise*, and Carl Reller (Transit New Zealand) was proposed as leader for *Water*. The group decided to set up a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May to review and discuss the material collected from members. Some of the members insisted for it to be arranged in a way to allow at least a conference call with Transit New Zealand. The group decided to schedule another meeting after the Geneva conference in order to take stock of the discussions and issues raised and to draft a detailed work plan for 2009.

### **3. Preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IRF Roads and Environment Conference**

Susanna Zammataro presented briefly the outline for the Conference that is planned in Geneva on 10-11 November 2008. She underlined that this year the objective is to look at innovations that are not only environmentally friendly but also economically viable. The members welcomed the idea of a panel discussion on carbon markets, made suggestions on topics to be covered and underlined the need to focus on resources and energy conservation.

Jean Lalo raised the question of the opportunity to make this event carbon neutral. The secretariat reported that the issue was already addressed and that some preliminary contacts had been already done in that direction.

### **4. Environment Knowledge Centre for IRF Website**

Susanna Zammataro presented the new international website of IRF giving a brief overview of each section and Sibylle Rupprecht explained to members the concept of the three thematic knowledge centres – respectively on Safety, PPP and Environment – that will be included in the new IRF Geneva website. She explained that this new tool is meant to both simplify and broaden knowledge on roads and the environment thus enhancing communication between experts from the public and private sector.

To this end, the knowledge centre will contain links to a number of key documents and web-based information channels, an overview of legislation and activities in this area, a section with news and a list with contact details of relevant Environment Agencies and Authorities. In order to facilitate the research, every entry will be accompanied by a brief comment highlighting key issues.

The group was enthusiastic about this new project and made some suggestions on how to make the database exhaustive and functional.

### **5. Miscellaneous**

Being solicited by some of the members, Sibylle Rupprecht introduced the IRF project on a GHG Calculator and gave the latest updates on its development. Stéphane Quint (Eurovia) and Jean Lalo (SOMARO-COLAS) shared some information on their company's experience with this kind of tool and expressed their strong interest on IRF calculator methodology and outputs.

Under the item "other business", the IRU representative solicited IRF and the WG in particular to be active on the discussion concerning "mega-trucks" and on the European Commission initiative on "Internalisation of external costs". He also recalled that IRU will hold its World Congress on 15-16 May 2008. Mr Pfliegel from Austria Tech shared some information with the group on the Conference "Intelligent Weather Information Systems and Services in Traffic and Transport" scheduled in Austria on 9-11 July 2008.

### **Decisions**

The group has decided to proceed as follows:

- The group will compile a publication reporting on "success stories" of IRF members' commitment to environment.
- IRF Members will be invited to submit a short contribution - following the format requested by the secretariat - giving remarkable and innovative examples of their commitment towards resources conservation, energy and emissions reduction, noise mitigation, sound water management, etc.
- The secretariat of the WG will be in charge of collecting the contributions from members and dispatching them to the designated theme leader (Jean Lalo and Stéphane Quint for the *Materials*, Reinhard Pfliegel for *Noise* and Carl Reller for *Water*).
- The collected material should be discussed during the next WG meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May.
- The publication should be finalised by 31 July and made available at the IRF Roads and Environment Conference in November.

### **Action**

The secretariat will prepare the ToR for the publication and adress a "call for contributions" to the entire IRF membership as soon as possible. The secretariat will set deadlines to ensure that the publication is ready by 31 July.

Geneva, 18.03.2008

Susanna Zammataro