



## **IRF Working Group Environment**

**Geneva, 5 October 2009**

### **MINUTES**

#### **Participants**

Dimitris Mandalozis, Attikes Diadromes S.A.  
Benedicte Corbier, Michelin  
Andreas Biedermann, Ammann Schweiz AG,  
Tony Marshall, ARUP  
Richard Smallegange, Ooms International Holding  
Saied Solomons, SABITA, SARF  
Jean-Claude ROFFE, COLAS  
Julie Panko, ChemRisk, LLC  
Francis Peters, Michelin (by phone)  
Jean Beauverd, Chairman of the IRF Board  
Susanna Zammataro, IRF Geneva  
Sandra Costa-Marini, IRF Geneva

#### **Excused**

Car Reller, New Zealand Transport Agency  
N.K. Sinha, ICT  
Xavier Bricout, Aximum  
Jens Hgel, International Road Transport Union

#### **Points addressed**

##### **1. Welcome and approval of the minutes**

Jean Beauverd – chairman of the IRF Geneva Programme Centre – delivered a welcome address and stressed the importance that environmental issues have for the Federation. He thanked the group and the chairman for the work already done.

Dimitris Mandalozis - chairman of the WG – introduced the participants and recalled the history and objectives of the WG for those participants that were joining for the first time. The agenda was presented and approved. The minutes of the last meeting (Paris, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009) were unanimously approved.

##### **2. Presentation of IRF Environment activities**

Since the group was hosting external experts and new members, Susanna Zammataro gave an overview of IRF involvement in Environment issues. The IRF GHG Calculator, the Global Transport Knowledge partnership (gTKP), outreaching activities and partnerships were amongst the points touched upon.

##### **3. Innovative Practices for Greener Roads (CD Rom)**

Susanna Zammataro shared with the members the positive feedback that the Innovative Practices for Greener Roads CD Rom is generating. A total of 3000 copies have been produced and around half of it already distributed. The World Bank is amongst the organizations that have requested several copies for distribution. The CD Rom is particularly appreciated because it provides an overview of different projects, products and practices specifically related to the road infrastructure sector. Attention was drawn on the production costs and on the limited budgetary resources available for this kind of publications. To this end, an appeal was made for greater support by the members of the group.

Tony Marshall suggested any request for financial support to be accompanied by a clear overview of organizations and stakeholders targeted, number of copies distributed, list of countries covered, etc. The secretariat noted the suggestion.

##### **4. Presentation of the Tire Industry Project (TIP)**

Julie Panko gave a presentation on the Tire Industry Project – a World Business Council for Sustainable Development project (WBCSD) – led by the major Tire manufactures companies. The

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project has three main objectives: (1) the evaluation of any environmental impacts of chemicals commonly used in tire manufacturing process, (2) the impacts of tire wear particles generated during normal usage and (3) the investigation of existing and potential management practices for end-of-life tires. Francis Peters (Michelin) seconded the presentation through conference call. A discussion followed on the potential involvement of road infrastructure providers on the project.

## ***Decision***

Julie Panko will send to the secretariat a document listing the kind of information they are looking for. This will be a first step to concretely explore any possibility of IRF members' involvement.

## ***Action***

The secretariat will circulate the document to the group and will provide information on other projects and/or organisations working in the same direction.

## **5. Environment policy statement**

The secretariat recalled the procedure for the approval of the policy statement: 1. Finalise the draft within the group; 2. Share it with Washington and Brussels' offices; 3. Circulate it to all IRF members for comments and approval. The group briefly looked into the revised version reflecting discussion and suggestions made during the Paris meeting (24<sup>th</sup> April).

## ***Decision***

The group agreed to have the policy statement finalised in time for the IRF World Meeting (Lisbon, 25-28 May).

## ***Action***

The members will provide comments by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October. The secretariat will then transmit the finalised draft to the Washington and Brussels' office.

## **6. SABITA Presentation**

Saied Solomons – representing Sabita and the South African Road Federation (SARF) delivered a presentation on Sabita's work and provided some feedback on their recently held "Sustainability conference". The organisation is actively involved - in between others – in research and promotion of sustainable practices, education and training. A discussion followed on how to better exploit synergies and share knowledge and information. The secretariat recalled to this end the knowledge Centre on the IRF website and the dedicated WG section on the IRF members' area.

## **7. "Roads & Environment" handbook**

The group discussed the draft outline put forward by the secretariat. The group addressed in particular the issue of the format and the content of the handbook. Jean-Claude Roffe questioned the pertinence of this work and stressed the relevance of having a general IRF position paper on the issue of environmental sustainability for the World Meeting. The chairman recalled that IRF will have two policy statements ready for the world meeting: one on "Sustainable roads" (jointly prepared by IRF Brussels and Geneva) and one on "Roads and the Environment" specifically initiated by the IRF Geneva Environment WG. A long discussion followed.

## ***Decision***

The group decided to move forward with the preparation of the handbook. In order to speed up the process, it was agreed to start working on the case-studies (at least one per chapter) that should be included in the publication. Each of the WG members decided to work on and present a case-study. It was agreed to set up a conference call on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2009 in order to assess progress and share ideas. A second conference call will be planned for April 2010, before the World Meeting.

The group decided to explore the possibility of having an IRF paper addressing environmental sustainability for the IRF World Meeting.

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## **Action**

The secretariat will launch a doodle survey in order to finalise the date for the conference call. It will also propose a common structure for the presentation of the case-studies. To this end Saied Solomon will provide to the secretariat some examples. The secretariat will coordinate with the Brussels "Sustainable roads" WG in order to explore the possibility of having an IRF position paper ready for the world meeting.

## **8. Activities 2009-2010**

A wrap-up was made of the planned activities until May 2010. Following the suggestion from the secretariat, the group agreed to choose "Urban Environment" as the framework topic for next year activities. This will allow continuation and coordination with the work done within the other IRF working groups.

The secretariat shared with members' some information on the 'Environment Arena' organised within Intertraffic 2010 and of which IRF is a partnering organisation. The IRF will have a stand within the arena and deliver a presentation. The IRF Members have been welcomed to join this dedicated area of Intertraffic either with a stand or with a presentation.

Jean-Claude Roffe made a brief resume of the IRF World Meeting planning and organisation. He solicited the members' input for keynote speakers and moderators and for any other relevant topic that might contribute to the success of the event.

## **Decision**

The group agreed to: 1. finalise the policy statement in time for the IRF world meeting; 2. finalise a first draft of the handbook by May; 3. hold an open Environment Working group meeting during the World Meeting in order to present its own activities, attract new member and gather input for the next years' activities. 4. Choose "Urban Environment" as the framework topic for next year's activities.

## **9. Presentation of "Greenroads rating system" (Washington University)**

Susanna Zammataro presented the Greenroads initiative, a rating system developed by Washington University that awards credits for sustainable choices/practices and can be used to certify road projects. A discussion followed on the possibility and opportunity to get involved and support this initiative actually tested by some of the US National Departments of Transportation (DOTs).

**Decision:** The group decided to follow closely developments and to eventually arrange a meeting with representatives of the Washington University in charge of the project (Prof. Mahoney, Prof. Muench) who will be attending and presenting at the IRF World Meeting.

## **10. Time and venue of the next WG meeting**

The group decided to meet on the third week of February 2010. Specific date to be confirmed.

## **11. Any other business**

Members were kindly asked to provide any documents suitable to be inserted in the IRF knowledge centre.

Geneva, 30th October 2009

Susanna Zammataro  
IRF Environment Programme Manager

Dimitris Mandalozis  
WG Chairman

Sandra Costa Marini  
Environment Programme Officer