

Geneva, 2 December 2008

IRF launches global forum for ITS Policy in New York

The 15th ITS World Congress in New York formed the stage of the launch meeting of the IRF Policy Committee on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS). The meeting, held on 19 November 2008 on initiative of IRF Geneva, and moderated by Caroline Visser, Road Finance Specialist of IRF Geneva, attracted some 35 high level officials, representing the various stakeholders in the ITS arena: policy makers from supranational governments, the automotive industry, national and regional ITS Associations from around the globe, the network of ITS Nationals, several private sector businesses active in ITS and politicians.



The purpose of the Policy Committee is to foster the development and implementation of ITS, by promoting its integration in transport policies as an important tool to make roads safer, to help them flow better and to improve their environmental performance.

The general response to the initiative was very positive, with all participants expressing their support and congratulating the IRF Geneva on taking leadership on this important topic. The idea of launching this committee was seen as very timely, and the global and neutral character of the committee is a key factor to its effectiveness and relevance.

During the meeting the Policy Committee explored the potential actions. Three main areas of activities were agreed upon by the participants:

1. Benchmarking the implementation of ITS throughout the various global regions to help stimulating ITS deployment; an ITS implementation roadmap should serve as a tool for governments to guide their actions in deploying ITS systems and help compare their state of advancement to others.
2. Creating awareness with high level policy makers on what ITS is and what benefits can be gained.
3. Providing a global forum to discuss issues related to the legal framework for ITS to help advance ITS deployment.

The Policy Committee will propose a detailed working programme and discuss priority activities in spring 2009.



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