



IRF Policy Committee on Intelligent Transport Systems

The IRF Policy Committee on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) was initiated in November 2008 to advocate the role of ITS in achieving today's major transport policy objectives such as safety, sustainability and efficiency of transport networks.

ITS plays an important role in safer roads and safer driving by helping to prevent accidents and mitigate their impacts. ITS applications also contribute to the enhanced operational sustainability and the environment. Through ITS, road networks can be operated and utilized more efficiently as an integrated transport network.



IRF has decided to support raising the profile of ITS with high level decision makers by establishing the **IRF Policy Committee on ITS**. IRF's network provides good access to Ministers of Transport and other key figures in the policy formulation process. Furthermore, IRF can support national/regional ITS associations in promoting the benefits of ITS.

The mission of the Policy Committee is to foster the deployment of ITS by supporting the development of national and regional ITS strategies and by encouraging governments to integrate ITS as a major tool to achieve their transport policy objectives in safety, sustainability and efficiency. The outcome of the work of the IPC on ITS will be recommendations to enable the stakeholders of ITS to define a balanced policy framework for programs for deployment of ITS.



The term „policy“ is broadly used and associated with a number of partly different meanings. The IPC on ITS understands policies as political, managerial, financial, and administrative **means and actions** arranged to reach explicit goals. Policy has to be understood as the higher-ranking framework enveloping a specific political topic. The main task of the IPC on ITS is therefore to elaborate general, extensive and comprehensive deliverables with the focus to the (political) decision makers.

The Committee is open to IRF members, national and supranational governments, national and regional authorities, ITS Associations, intergovernmental institutions and other organisations upon invitation by IRF. The Committee consists of high level officials and meets twice per year to initiate activities and report on progress.

The activities of the IPC on ITS is aligned on a regular base with the other IRF Working Groups (at present: Environment, Road Safety and Public Private Partnerships respectively). The Committee is to search close cooperation with other international organisations and/or multilateral institutions.

The work of the Policy Committee is organised in 5 Sub-Committees, responsible for the substantial outcomes of this initiative. A Chairman and a Vice-Chairman respectively preside each Sub-Committee. It is their duty to co-ordinate the work within their particular Sub-Committee and report to the Committee Chair and the Management Team.



Geneva Meeting 2009



On Thursday 2nd April 2009, the Committee gathered in Geneva for its inaugural meeting, further to its establishment during the ITS World Congress in New York.

The meeting, preceded by a welcoming dinner the night before, was themed "Linking ITS to Policy" and saw the official nomination of the Committee Chairman, Mr. Josef Czako from Kapsch TrafficCom, Austria. Besides the formal business of defining proposed activities, organisational framework and time horizons for the Committee, the meeting took the form of a seminar devoted to Global Perspectives on ITS Strategies. This provided a lively forum for presentations by the various stakeholders represented, including one by Jack Opiola (former Principal at Booz in the UK and current partner of D'Artagnan Consulting in the U.S.), an internationally renowned authority in ITS, tolling, road pricing and related issues. Other organisations sharing their experience and viewpoints included the European Commission, ITS South Africa, ERTICO, UNECE and ITS Arab. A statement from ITS America was also presented.

The participants concluded that the Policy Committee would look into the following themes going forward:

- a. The role of ITS in transport policy objectives (such as road safety, reducing negative environmental impacts, tackling congestion etc.);
- b. The role of ITS in financing infrastructure;
- c. Capacity building for ITS and social issues;
- d. Legal frameworks for ITS;
- e. ITS strategy development;
- f. Benchmarking of ITS strategies and deployment.



Stockholm Meeting 2009



The IRF Policy Committee on ITS held its next meeting in Stockholm on 23rd September, 2009.

Sub-committees, each covering a distinct theme, have been set up and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs are responsible for the substantive outcomes of their respective sub-committees. During the Stockholm meeting, the final Terms of Reference as well activity programmes were presented for each of the subcommittees.

Representatives from ITS America and the European Commission updated participants on latest developments in US and European ITS policy. They also expressed their strong support for the work of the IRF Committee. The World Bank and several National ITS associations were also represented and the Committee defined its strategic outlook for future gatherings.





Moscow Meeting 2009



The IRF Policy Committee on ITS held its next working meeting in Moscow on 20th November, 2009. The meeting was hosted by Leonid Kozlov, vice president of the International Congress of Industrialists & Entrepreneurs (ICIE), Russia.

The meeting was programmed to coincide with the First Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety, as well as celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of the Russian Ministry of Transport, taking place in Moscow the same week. This enabled the prior organisation, on 19th November, of a successful roundtable discussion on "ITS and Road Safety" in

the context of the Ministerial Conference.

During the Policy Committee meeting, activity programmes were presented and discussed with respect to each of the five sub-committees. New members were introduced and welcomed. Representatives from ITS Russia, ITS America and ERTICO provided updates on the latest developments in Russian, US and European ITS policy respectively. They also expressed their strong support for the work of the IRF Committee.



Participants articulated the important contribution ITS can make towards achieving major policy objectives in the fields of road safety, sustainability and efficiency. In this regard, the Committee explored ways of reaching out to high level decision makers in order to raise the profile of ITS.

Brussels Meeting 2010



The next working meeting of the IRF Policy Committee on ITS took place in Brussels on 1st April, 2010. The meeting was held in ERF offices.

During the Policy Committee meeting, chairs of five sub-committees presented progress report on their activities.

Representatives from POLIS, ITS Belgium, ITS Netherlands, ITS Russia, ITS America and ERTICO gave brief update on the projects they are involved. It was proposed that Policy Committee should coordinate with these organizations in providing its deliverables. In particular, Policy Committee should be involved in projects of ERTICO and POLIS, which are very much in line with planned deliverables of PC.



One of the issues discussed during meeting was regulation on ITS applications deployment in vehicles and its consequences for automobile industry around the globe. Participants also discussed the ways of implementing ITS applications, i.e. through vehicles or infrastructure. However, everyone has agreed that general policy framework is needed to promote and implement ITS.



Lisbon Meeting 2010



The IRF Policy Committee on ITS held its latest informative meeting in Lisbon on 25th May, 2010, during 16th IRF World Meeting.

Rui Camolino, President of ITS Portugal, reported on the state of ITS deployment in different modes of transport in Portugal. He addressed current and planned ITS projects in Portugal and briefed the participants on the policy context.

Caroline Visser made a brief presentation about the mission, themes, target groups and timeline of the Policy Committee, as an introduction to the sub committee updates. Each sub-committee presented progress report on their activities.

One of the issues discussed during meeting was the amount of budget allocated to ITS in different parts of the world. Representatives from Roads Australia, ITS South Africa, ITS Russia, ITS Portugal and others contributed to the discussion with their experience.