

Round Table on Transport and Security
8 February 2006 at 3 pm, Room XII

**Opening Statement by Mr. Paolo GARONNA,
Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE**

Mr. Chairman, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for me to open this Round Table and I wish to thank the speakers for accepting to transmit to us their knowledge and experience.

Enhancing security has become a central concern for governments in all countries. As recent events have shown, the most serious security threats are terrorist attacks. International organized crime, which may be linked to terrorism, is another major security threat. Both affect transport directly or indirectly.

The attacks on New York, Moscow, Madrid and London have shown the vulnerability of transport systems. In inland transport, the most frequent security risks include the theft of vehicles and their use as car bombs, as well as in some countries attacks to road drivers. Other security risks are the theft of dangerous substances during their transport, illegal border crossing of persons or goods and attacks to infrastructures like tunnels and bridges.

Transport, be it of passengers or goods, is both an important and an easy target for terrorism and organized crime. It is an important target because transport is a most basic element of everyday life of people and is vital to the well functioning of economic activities.

Transport is also an easy target, mainly because transport is not designed or intended to cope with threats such as terrorism and organized crime. International transport is particularly vulnerable, as organized crime and terrorism may engage in illegal traffic of goods and people.

The transport community, together with all relevant partners, must show determination to work hard to prevent security threats. Threats must be addressed at an early stage. This requires the involvement of Governments, international organizations and the private sector alike. At Governmental level,

the approach requires cooperation of the transport authorities with other authorities including intelligence, security, customs and border authorities.

Measures should be proportionate to the threat and as efficient as possible, so that they do not hinder excessively international transport.

I hope this Round Table will help identify measures that enhance security while facilitating transport, and that can be developed in the UNECE legal instruments on transport.

I wish the greatest success to this Round Table and thank you for your attention.