



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
17 December 2013

Original: English

Economic Commission for Europe

Inland Transport Committee

Seventy-sixth session

Geneva, 25–27 February 2014

Item 3 (d) of the provisional agenda

Strategic questions of a horizontal policy nature:

Intelligent transport systems

Overview of activities promoting innovative transport technologies and ITS

Status of the implementation of the ITS Road Map

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This note provides information on the status of implementation of the ITS Road Map that was launched at the seventy-fourth session of the Inland Transport Committee.

The Committee is invited to support the initiatives aimed at raising awareness and transfer of knowledge to enable policymakers to better promote the development and application of ITS solutions and policies for improved mobility around the world.

I. Background

1. Intelligent Transport Services (ITS) play an important role in shaping the future ways of mobility and the transport sector. The use of ITS applications will help achieve sustainable mobility by making transport more efficient, safer and greener. However, the huge potentials and benefits can only be reaped if ITS technical solutions and services are successfully embedded in appropriate policy frameworks and harmonised policies, in order to facilitate national and international interoperability.

2. In recognition of the importance of ITS in addressing present and future challenges for transport and mobility, the policy segment of the 74th session of the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) was on ITS, entitled “Intelligent Mobility – thinking about tomorrow’s

transport”. The ITC endorsed the outcome of the policy-oriented segment of this meeting and approved a Road Map for promoting ITS which includes 20 global actions to promote the use of ITS (see Annex to this document). ITC requested its subsidiary bodies to implement the road map.

3. At its 75th session, ITC acknowledged that ITS has a prominent role in sustainable development and therefore encouraged and supported UNECE actions and initiatives aimed at transferring to policy makers knowledge on how to develop and deploy intelligent transport solutions for people around the world. Furthermore ITC expressed the need for consistency between the different existing legal instruments that are managed by the different working parties. To that effect, it encouraged WP.1 and WP.29 to coordinate their activities and efforts to develop a consistent transversal approach on ITS.

4. The following sections in this note aim to present activities and initiatives implementing the UNECE Road Map on ITS. A summary of the 20 Actions contained in the Road Map can be found in the Annex.

II. UNECE activities in 2013

A. Annual Roundtable on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in emerging markets

5. As its annual flagship event, UNECE jointly organised with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), a one day workshop entitled “Intelligent transport systems in emerging markets – drivers for safe and sustainable growth”. The workshop took place in Geneva, Switzerland on 27 June 2013, and focused on ITS in emerging markets and its impact on road safety.

6. The workshop targeted Information Communications Technology (ICT) and transport policy makers and regulators, as well as representatives of the ICT, consumer electronics, automobile, transport and insurance sector.

7. The objectives of the workshop were to review the status quo of intelligent transport systems including the technology, applications, regulatory frameworks, and standards. It also identified barriers to adoption, challenges and how they can be overcome, as well as highlighting the benefits of ITS particularly for road safety. Finally the workshop discussed the issue of distraction. *Road Map Actions addressed: Action 9; Action 20.*

B. ITC Working Parties (*Road Map Actions addressed: Action 9; Action 20*)

8. Potential legal inconsistencies may exist between the provisions in legal instruments on road traffic and vehicle regulations. In this regard the provision that “the driver must be in control of the vehicle” has been questioned in light of the progressively increasing level of automation of vehicles reflected in vehicle regulations.. The World Forum on Harmonisation of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) and the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety (WP.1) have been jointly considering different proposals on the consistency between the provisions of the 1968 Vienna Conventions and the provisions of the vehicle Regulations adopted in the framework of the 1958 and 1998 Agreements,, such as alignment of the lighting requirements and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems. As technological innovations result in more automation, liability issues will more and more become a centre of considerations with a full and broad approach, including traffic safety, vehicle and infrastructure policy issues. *Road Map Actions addressed: Action 10.*

9. The Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (WP.15) is aiming to improve the speed and efficiency of emergency responses involving dangerous goods in transport. *Road Map Actions addressed: Action 12.*

10. The Working Party on Intermodal Transport and Logistics (WP.24) devoted 2012 to ITS. This recognition of the importance of ITS for intermodal transport was followed by a workshop organised in Brussels in 2013 on “Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS): Opportunities and Challenges for Intermodal Transport”. The workshop highlighted the importance of good governance in view of the fast pace of technological developments in this field and their potential, if properly applied, to render complex intermodal transport operations safer and more efficient. *Road Map Actions addressed: Action 13; Action 14; Action 15.*

11. In 2013, in the framework of the World Forum on Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29), three new United Nations Vehicle Regulations entered into force covering Advanced Emergency Braking Systems, Child Restraint Systems, and Lane Departure Warning Systems. Furthermore, existing UN Regulations were also updated with some 180 amendments, introducing more severe limits that enhance the safety and environmental performance of vehicles. *Road Map Actions addressed: Action 7; Action 9.*

III. Planned activities

12. The flagship event in 2014 on ITS is planned to be organised jointly with the government of Belgium. The theme of the Roundtable will be on ITS and road safety. *Road Map Actions to be addressed: Action 9; Action 20.*

IV. Overview of Road Map Actions addressed

13. Actions 4 (two activities), 6, 7, 9 (two activities), 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20 have been addressed through the various activities of the ITC subsidiary bodies.

14. More activities need to be undertaken vis-a-vis Actions 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, 16, 17, and 18 that were not addressed in 2013.

Annex

The UNECE Road Map on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)

Action 1

Reaching a common definition for ITS

Action 2

Harmonising policies

Action 3

Forging International cooperation

Action 4

Facilitating interoperability and the ITS architecture

Action 5

Ensuring data security

Action 6

Scaling up the work on ITS in all Working Parties of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC)

Action 7

Promoting vehicle to infrastructure communication

Action 8

Promoting vehicle - to - vehicle communication

Action 9

Fighting the road safety crisis

Action 10

Addressing the liability concerns

Action 11

Harmonizing Variable Message Signs

Action 12

Making Transport of Dangerous Goods less dangerous

Action 13

Integrating with Rail Transport

Action 14

Integrating with Inland Water Transport

Action 15

Enhancing the modal integrator's role of ITS

Action 16

Developing Cost-benefit assessment methodologies

Action 17

Contributing to climate change mitigation and adaption

Action 18

Launching analytical work

Action 19

Contributing to capacity building, education and awareness raising, with special attention to emerging economies

Action 20

Organising the United Nations Annual Round Table on Intelligent Transport Systems