

Enhanced cooperation and coordination on work related to ITS within relevant bodies WP.1, WP.29 and SC.1

Background:

In its 77th session the Inland transport Committee (ITC) highlighted the importance of ITS

- invited its member States to support actions for covering automated vehicles within the internationally harmonized regulatory framework, as fostering regulatory actions would ensure the benefits that ITS could provide in terms of road safety, environmental protection, energy efficiency and traffic management,
- invited WP.1 and WP.29 to investigate different possibilities to increase their cooperation and to optimize synergy within these Working Parties, as the knowledge of the human behaviour in relation to complex technology will be of utmost importance in the future, and as technology and the driver/road user cannot be regulated in isolation from each other and
- invited its subsidiary bodies to strengthen ITS activities linked to infrastructure and all transport modes by addressing ITS issues in an integrated approach.

In its 70th session WP.1 has started discussions based on an Informal Document (WP.1 Informal document No. 2) submitted by Belgium and Sweden on possible ways of cooperation between WP.1 and WP.29. WP.1 expressed its positive approach towards closer cooperation with WP.29.

Synthesis of the issue at stake:

The reflection of emerging technologies towards automated / autonomous driving in the regulatory framework leads to an increasing number of questions to be answered relating to overlapping issues touching both vehicle technology, human/drivers behaviour and infrastructure leading to an ambiguity situation with overlapping competence.

Proposal for a solution:

The issue of ITS and especially automated/autonomous vehicles/driving calls for an holistic approach addressing all the groups/actors involved. A possible way forward could be the establishment of a forum where these overlapping issues could be discussed to reach a common understanding. However such a forum should be delinked from the structure and decision making powers of the individual WPs and it also should not override them. The common understanding reached at this forum should provide guidance to the individual WPs when addressing these overlapping issues within their regulatory activities. Such a forum could have the form of a joint task force on ITS.
