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**Panel II: ITC - Platform to link regulators and innovators: technologies for sustainable Mobility, Intervention of Mr. Tomislav Mihotić, State Secretary**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here today on the Ministerial Meeting related to the celebration of the Seventieth Anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee. I would like to convey warm greetings of the Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia. We appreciate and support ICT initiative related to the development of a sustainable land transport in line with coherent UN and EU transport policies and legislation.

Today, utilization of advanced technologies is a foundation stone for the development of transport sector at European level and in Croatia itself. We witness new technological era that will certainly have great impact on the improvement of the inland transport interoperability, safety, security and data exchange while contributing to better mobility of our citizens, goods and better functioning of our economies while reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emission and creating positive impact on climate change. We are aware that this era requires closer collaboration among regulators, industry and inventors in order to achieve efficient implementation of new technologies and timely adoption of the related regulatory framework. Moreover, this era requires additional and permanently administrative capacity strengthening at national and European level as well as education for all stakeholders and citizens.

Ladies and gentlemen, please allow me now to say a few words about current developments concerning implementation of European technological initiatives and related regulatory frameworks in Croatia.

Following ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) Directive as a framework for the implementation of the intelligent transport systems in the road transport and its integration with other transport modes in the intermodal transport at the European level, the Republic of Croatia participates with thirteen (13) other countries of the Central and East Europe in the implementation of the ITS Directive under the CROCODILE projects.

The scope of the project covers an area of the core TEN-T network, with particular emphasis on the development of the Mediterranean corridor (Rijeka - Zagreb - Hungary / Slovenian border), including urban nodes Zagreb and Rijeka, while ensuring continuity of ITS services

between Croatian and neighboring EU countries. It is based on an infrastructure that enabled the implementation of Datex II Protocol on the TEN-T core network and the establishment of the National Information Contact Point for the exchange of information that should primarily improve the quality of service and safety for road users. The project will enable the exchange of information in road traffic in real-time among managers and road users and improve cross-border traffic through the application of ITS on the core network corridors.

Using standardized Datex II protocols and the establishment of the infrastructure of the National Information Contact Point will enable further implementation of the ITS Directive, in particular provision of services of multimodal travel information throughout the European Union and associated services in road transport.

Furthermore, Croatia has recently adopted regulatory framework concerning the deployment of the alternative fuel infrastructure and development of the market of such vehicles in line with related EU Directive. We are convinced that this regulatory framework would further motivate innovators and industry to boost environmental friendly business in a sustainable manner.

Thank you for your attention.