



REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Warsaw, 22nd February 2022

**Andrzej Adamczyk**

84th ITC session – Ministerial panel

Your Excellency Executive Secretary of the UNECE,  
Excellences, dear participants of the session,

I begin my speech by congratulating all of us on the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Inland Transport Committee. I am very happy to be part of this jubilee celebration.

The unquestionable achievements of this important UN body, which creates an infrastructure that is unique on a global scale, supporting the development of broadly understood land transport, are very encouraging.

Material proof of the universal nature of the Committee's activities is the development, adoption and administration of 59 conventions and agreements, which are regularly updated. Each year, more countries from different continents accede to these conventions.

This confirms that it is definitely worth supporting the adoption of the new Terms of Reference for the Inland Transport Committee of the ECE at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

In order to properly evaluate our achievements, it is worth going back to 1947 at this special jubilee moment.

Over the past 75 years, the transport infrastructure has been rebuilt and modernized to accommodate rapidly increasing traffic - also thanks to the work of the Inland Transport Committee.

This was the result of economic development and the growing number of vehicles.

As a result, new challenges have emerged, enabling cross-border traffic on the one hand and traffic safety on the other.

In this context, the results of the work of the ITC are enormous; this is due to the excellent atmosphere around ITC, co-created by enthusiasts from the ITC Secretariat - UNECE Department of Sustainable Transport.

This creative atmosphere inspired the creation of a specific network and Center of Expertise, based on the synergy of activities of experts from all continents, representing governments and intergovernmental organizations of regional and global reach, as well as non-governmental organizations and scientific networks.

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THE CENTENARY  
OF REGAINING  
INDEPENDENCE

The European Commission is also active in the Committee. Documentation of the work of the Committee's structures is publicly available.

The passion for the development of various fields of transport is realized in numerous Working Groups and Expert Groups of the Committee, which is reflected in many publications.

The frequency of work of the Commission's structures proves the vitality and enormous commitment of both international experts and employees of the Department of Sustainable Transport. ITC structures are modified as needed.

Participation in the work of the ITC is open, therefore, at present, the majority of states that are parties to these 59 conventions are non-European states.

Being an active participant in these works, Poland uses the tools of the Committee.

In the last 10 years, our country has experienced a real and unprecedented intensification of transport investments.

The aim of these activities is to meet the needs resulting from the growing mobility of the society.

During this period, Poland invested approximately EUR 40 billion and commissioned almost 4,000 km of motorways and expressways.

Thanks to the support of the European Union and International Financial Institutions, over the last 6 years we have expanded the network of expressways in Poland by 50%. The Covid-19 pandemic has not stopped our investments. Poland plans to invest another EUR 40 billion by 2025 - without interrupting investment processes.

We are also actively developing railways and inland navigation by building and modernizing networks and rolling stock as environmentally friendly means of transport.

Poland also actively supports the development of international transport corridors. As part of the ITC initiatives, these are Eurasian Transport Connections, but we also implement our own concepts - e.g. the Via Carpatia road route under construction and the planned Rail Carpatia railway route.

They will connect the countries of Central Europe on the North-South axis, complementing the global transport networks. This opens up new possibilities for connecting European countries also with the countries of Asia and Africa. Such actions will allow for a more sustainable development of our societies.

Increasing mobility is clearly putting pressure on road safety. This is a challenge that we treat as a priority in Poland. We have established the National Road Safety Council, which I have the honor of chairing. The Sejm of the Republic of Poland passed many laws and other legal acts developed at the Ministry.

The last year was particularly fruitful in this regard. Among other things, we introduced the implementation of the obligation to form "corridors of life" and significantly increased the sanctions for violating road traffic regulations.

In addition, we constantly educate various social groups, using all possible media, including the Internet. The safety of road users is the basis of sustainable development.

All this proves that Poland is implementing the assumptions of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda promoted by the United Nations with great determination.

I am honored to mention the involvement of Polish representatives in the activities of ITC. For many years, the Polish representative chaired the work of this distinguished Commission, and is currently the vice-chairman of its Bureau.

Other employees of the Ministry of Infrastructure manage specialized ITC structures. Polish experts, acting on the forum of committees and working groups, share their knowledge and experience, practically supporting less developed and land locked countries.

I encourage everyone to actively participate in the works of the ITC forum and, more broadly, at the United Nations. As history has shown, the activities of the UN structures have proved effective and ensure the global development of countries, regions and the world. Let us continue and develop these unchallenged achievements.

Ladies and gentlemen !

Thanking the ITC and its Secretariat for the outstanding achievements so far, I wish all of us another, at least 75 years, peaceful work for the good of humanity - connecting nations and sustainable mobility development.

Thank you for your attention.