France – UNECE ITS Workshop in Bordeaux 2015

Concept Note

1. Background

As part of the UNECE ITS Road Map for 2012-2020, the annual UNECE Workshop on Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) offers a platform for key stakeholders to discuss the latest developments in ITS and guide the work of UNECE to focus on relevant topics. In 2015, the Workshop will be organized in Bordeaux as an associated event of the ITS World Congress.

The past years have seen developments for road vehicles in three technological areas, namely propulsion, automation and connectivity. With the development of automation and connectivity, driving can become safer both for drivers and passengers as well as pedestrians and other vulnerable road users. Improvements in propulsion linked with advances in connectivity can promote ecological driving and reduce emissions. These developments can also be integrated in traffic management. It is therefore likely that these advances in technology can have a positive impact on sustainability and sustainable mobility.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP21, will bring climate change and environmental sustainability to the forefront again this year. The transition to a low-carbon economy will be necessary in order to mitigate and reduce the effects of climate change and transport will play a central role in these efforts. It is therefore timely to discuss how the recent innovations in ITS technology can help to not only reduce our carbon footprint, but to contribute to strengthening the three pillars of sustainability: economic and social development and environmental protection.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

Within the past years automated driving technology for road vehicles has advanced rapidly. Vehicle manufacturers are engaging more and more in the development of automated driving technology and this is attracting growing interest from the media as well as the public. These innovative technologies already revolutionize driving and offer huge potential benefits in the form of a safer and more ecological road transport environment. The goal of the regulatory community is to capture the benefits and at the same time promote the spread of these new technologies.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The objective of the FRANCE / UNECE ITS Workshop is not limited to an exchange of views on ITS and their impact on the environment but also to provide a vision for future mobility and a platform for discussing and implementing this vision in the policy and regulatory process.

UNECE is exploring at this early stage ways to relate the outcome of this workshop to the activities around COP21 and the discussions during the Ministerial Round table held at the ITS World Conference.

3. Organization

3.1 ITS World Congress in Bordeaux 2015

The ITS World Congress, held this year in Bordeaux, dates back to 1994, when it was first organized in Paris. Since then the event has grown remarkably and this year the organizers are expecting over 10,000 visitors to the event. This year's theme is "Towards Intelligent Mobility-Better use of Space", which will focus on how ITS will impact on the everyday lives of people and how space technologies can be used in ITS applications. In particular, the Congress will explore how technologies, combined with vehicle sensors space and V2X technologies, can improve positioning services and encourage the development of innovative ITS applications. In addition, the Congress will explore the challenges in the development and deployment of ITS solutions from the point of view of infrastructure, multimodal transport, urban transport and transport automation. The congress will also highlight how ITS can enable the development of transport solutions that enhance climate change resilience and how big data will revolutionize data sourcing, sharing and exchange.

Given the high number of visitors expected to attend the Congress and the theme focusing on innovative ITS applications as well as the climate change challenge, the ITS World Congress offers an ideal venue and occasion to organize the annual UNECE ITS Workshop.

The official language of the Congress is English and all speeches will be delivered in English.

3.2 Organizing partners

The organizations presented below are the key actors in organizing the ITS World Congress and the UNECE ITS Workshop.

**Table 1. List of organizers**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| UNECE/TD | UNECE, Transport Division. Co-organizer |
| MEDDE | The Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable development and Energy of France (Ministerial ITS Task Force). Co-organizer (Also working this year as a partner in the organization of the World Congress). |
| PREDIM | A platform for research and experimentation for the development of mobility innovations. Offers nation-wide support for transport authorities in France by providing information services. Event manager for UNECE Workshop. |
| IAU-IDF | An institute for urban planning in the Île-de-France region. Conducts studies and offers support to the regional council. The contractor for the organization of the UNECE Workshop. |
| ERTICO-ITS Europe | A multi-sector, public/private partnership working with the development and deployment of ITS. The main organizer of the World Congress, working closely together with the European Commission, local hosts, ITS America and ITS Asia Pacific. |
| TOPOS | An association for satellite positioning and navigation experts. Serves as the host for this year's Congress. |

**Figure 1. Organizational chart**

**Organization of UNECE/France Workshop**

**Organization of World Congress**

Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable development and Energy (MEDDE)

UNECE  
Transport Division

Organizer of World Congress:

ERTICO- ITS Europe

Event manager:

PREDIM

Host of World Congress:

TOPOS

Contractor:

IAU-IDF

3.3 Sponsors

Michelin Bibendum Challenge is supporting the organization of this workshop by sponsoring the meeting room as well as the breaks (beverage).

3.4 Format

The UNECE ITS Workshop will consist of a high-level panel and two expert panels each focusing on a specific theme. Each panel will include 10-15 minute presentations from 4-5 speakers, followed by discussion lead by a moderator and questions from the floor. A Wrap-up session summarizing the main outcomes will conclude the Workshop. The speakers will be encouraged to present on the relevant theme from the point of view of their area of expertise. The language of the workshop will be English.

4. Draft programme

See the corresponding webpage

1. Based on ITS/AD-02-03 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)