



## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Session of the ITC

The annual session will start on 21 February 2017 with the Transport Ministerial meeting that will be dedicated to the “Past and Future of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee” in order to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the ITC, take stock of its past contributions but also decide on its future mission at a time of profound changes, challenges and opportunities globally.



Mr. W. Moser (Switzerland), Mr. A. Agafonov ((USSR) and Mr. E. D. Brant (UK) of the Transport Division studying a map of the 1955 Road Traffic Census United Nations.

The Meeting of Transport Ministers will consider the importance of sustainable inland transport in the economy and also for world politics. Through its thematic panels, it will also discuss issues related to ITC as a gateway to promote connectivity, as platform to link regulators and innovators with special attention to technologies for sustainable mobility and ITC as a centre of UN transport conventions, considering the benefits of internationally harmonized regulatory governance for inland transport.

## Joint Message by the Chair and the Director

In 1947, in the aftermath of the Second World War a unique intergovernmental forum was set up, the UNECE Inland Transport Committee (ITC). While the ITC – as a successor of the European Central Inland Transport Organization (ECITO) - was initially meant to support reconstruction of transport connections in post-war Europe, it has since evolved far beyond that original purpose.

In the 70 years since its founding, the ITC, together with its twenty working parties and several other connected inter-governmental bodies, has become a centre of UN inland transport conventions and a platform, where cooperation is forged for developing efficient, harmonized and integrated, safe and secure, as well as environmentally friendly inland transport systems. Every day, lives of people and businesses are improved by the ITC through norms and standards for safer roads and vehicles, a cleaner environment and a more connected world.

We are taking this moment, to celebrate the accomplishments of the ITC over the past 70 years, but also to look at how we can best keep this record of success progressing into the future.

I hope that you will join us for this celebration and also for the important work ahead of us.

**Eva Molnar**  
Director  
Sustainable Transport  
Division,  
UNECE

**Jerzy Kleniewsky**  
Chair  
Inland Transport  
Committee,  
UNECE

## SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT



The ministers and all distinguished delegates will be invited to a VIP tour of the exhibition about the history of the Inland Transport Committee and to a poster signing ceremony about "***The Future Inland Transport we Want!***"

The poster includes a list of enabling conditions to achieve the eight cross-cutting objectives:

- Seamless border crossing
- Facilitated international transport
- Reduced Green-House-Gas emissions
- Reduced air and noise pollution
- Increased Public Transport mobility choices
- Zero traffic fatalities and injuries
- Efficient transport services
- Enjoyable walking and cycling.

The Ministerial meeting will be followed by the regular annual session of the ITC (22-24 February 2017). You can find on our website the [agenda](#) and the [documents](#) of the annual session.

Among the High Level events are also :

The [Global Road Safety Film Festival](#) will take place on 20 February 2017 and its award ceremony will start at 1 pm on 21 February 2017;

A [joint UNECE/ITC - UNEP Conference](#) on "Ensuring Better Air Quality and Reduced Climate Emissions through Cleaner Used Vehicles " will be on 20 February 2017;

The [High Level Conference on Inland Water Transport](#) with the participation of countries with navigable waterways and of river commissions and other international organisations will be on 22 February 2017;

A [UNECE-IsDB joint workshop](#) on United Nations Inland Transport Conventions will take place on 22 February 2017;

An [exhibition on the history of the ITC](#) that will mark the special anniversary will take place in the Salle des Pas Perdus of the Palais des Nations throughout the week.

## Global Road Safety Film Festival

As part of the celebration of the 70th anniversary, UNECE partnering with Laser International Foundation (LIFE) is organising the 2017 Global Road Safety Film Festival titled "creating a road safety culture". The Palais des Nations will open its door to film makers, experts in road safety and other interested participants on Monday 20 February - the Festival Day - to watch the best films submitted to the Festival.



The High-level Jury chaired by Mr. **Jean Todt**, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety and attended by such personalities as film director, **Mr. Luc Besson**; actress **Ms. Michelle Yeoh**; President of the International Olympics Committee, **Mr. Thomas Bach**; High commissioner of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Prince Zeid bin Ra'ad Zeid al-Husseini**, and ECE Executive Secretary, **Mr. Christian Friis Bach** will agree on the winning films of the Festival. The winners will be awarded on Tuesday 21 February - Awards Day - during the Ministerial Meeting of the Inland Transport Committee.

There have been more than 200 films submitted to the festival from around the globe. Now, during the run-up to the Festival these films are screened for award nomination. Up to 30 films are expected to be nominated for awards and projected on the Festival Day. Three best films of the Festival will be awarded with the Festival's Grand Prix, first best and second best prizes. Awards will be also given to best films of special categories such as: "best film in Spanish", "don't drink and drive", "safe and smart vehicle", "making motorcycle riding safer" or "road safety innovation".

Join the Festival along 200 participants from 50 different countries that have already registered to attend it and be part of this exciting event for "creating a road safety culture" together with UNECE, LIFE, Mr. Jean Todt and personalities of the High-level Jury.



## **UNECE/ITC-UNEP conference on "Ensuring Better Air Quality and Reduced Climate Emissions through Cleaner Used Vehicles"**

A UNECE/ITC-UNEP conference on "Ensuring Better Air Quality and Reduced Climate Emissions through Cleaner Used Vehicles" is planned on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Committee.

Reducing the emissions of the global fleet is a priority for both climate and air quality.

The purpose of this one-day event is to discuss among policymakers, as well as representatives of the industry and the academia a possible global approach to controlling the environmental performance of used vehicles, in order to ensure that trade in used vehicles does not simply move the problem from one region to another. The conference will consider possible answers to numerous related questions. Why does the problem persist despite dramatic improvements in vehicle and fuel technology? Who should the primary target constituencies for this be? What is the role of the existing international regulatory framework?

## **Joint IsDB-ECE Capacity-Building Workshop on United Nations Inland Transport Conventions**

The aim of the planned workshop is to present the benefits of accession and implementation of UN transport legal instruments, especially to the 11 common member States of the Europe-Asia Transport Linkages (EATL) project and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), as well as to exchange information on implementation practices and challenges.

High-level participants from non-UNECE countries supported by the IsDB will have the opportunity to get an overview of the 58 UN transport agreements and conventions under the purview of the ITC and its subsidiary bodies.

Participants will also gain understanding of the mechanism whereby the UN legal instruments are kept updated through the activities of the treaty bodies, i.e. the Administrative Committees, supported in this work by the Working Parties of the Inland Transport Committee.

## **High-level Conference on Inland Water Transport**

A half-day High-Level Conference on Inland Water Transport will take place on 22 February. Ministers of countries with major navigable inland waterways from the UNECE region and beyond, regional integration organizations, river commissions, non-governmental organizations and other key stakeholders will share their vision for the future development of Inland Water Transport.

This will be an opportunity to exchange views on key issues affecting Inland Water Transport in the 21st Century as well as where the main opportunities lie for a crucial transport mode considering the contribution that inland waterways can make to implementing the 2030 Agenda.



## Useful Information

### ITC Week programme at a glance:

[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/events/2017/ITC/Weekly\\_70th\\_ITC\\_Anniversary\\_Programme.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/events/2017/ITC/Weekly_70th_ITC_Anniversary_Programme.pdf)

### Registration:

[http://www.unece.org/trans/events/2017/itc79\\_2017.html](http://www.unece.org/trans/events/2017/itc79_2017.html)

## Contacts:

**George Georgiadis, Secretary to the ITC**  
(George.georgiadis@unece.org)

**Walter Nissler, chief of section on vehicle regulations and innovative technologies**  
(walter.nissler@unece.org)

**Francesco Dionori, chief of section on Transport Networks and Logistics**  
(francesco.dionori@unece.org)

**Victoria Ivanova, secretary to the working parties on Inland Water Transport**  
(victoria.ivanova@unece.org)

**Lukasz Wyrovski, UNECE project manager for the Global Road Safety Film Festival**  
(Lukasz.wyrovski@unece.org)

**Anastasia Barinova, assistant to ITC**  
(anastasia.barinova@unece.org)

**Konstantinos Alexopoulos, Sponsors /Exhibition**  
(konstantinos.alexopoulos@unece.org)

## WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



**Islamic Development Bank**  
Providing resources, fighting poverty, restoring dignity



**SCANIA**

**SIEMENS**  
Ingenuity for life



INTERNATIONAL UNION  
OF RAILWAYS