

**(WP.29) World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations
(176rd session)**

Thank you Mr. Chair and Good morning everyone

My name is Yaakov Shem-Tov I am the Head of Technology and Innovation Department at the Israeli Ministry of Transport and road safety.

As I have already informed this forum although Israel is not yet part of the 1958 and 1997 agreements, our activities relating automotive sector are based on EU regulations and this is why we are always glad to participate in the discussions of this working group.

The number of vehicles registered in Israel is growing dramatically and profoundly influencing the air pollution in densely-populated urban areas. Lowering harmful air pollution and decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by using environmentally friendly vehicles is one of our main goals.

The reincarnation of electric vehicles is a growing force, bound to influence, in a positive manner, in reduction of air pollution, therefore, the Israeli government announced a gradual transition to electric cars and a total import ban of internal combustion engine vehicles running on gasoline or diesel starting in 2030.

As a complementary step, initial budget of \$10 million has been allocated for the installation of electric charging stations in Israel during 2019.

The continuing evolution of automotive technologies, Automated Driving Systems and autonomous cars, aims to deliver greater safety benefits that reduce the number of casualties and traffic congestion.

Israel is one of the leading countries in developing Advanced Driver-Assistances Systems, Self-Driving Cars Systems, systems supporting mobility services and Cyber security.

In order to support the development in Israel, of new technologies and yet to ensure safety, the Israeli Ministry of Transport has introduced technical procedures and regulations for testing self-driving cars on public roads.

As a complementary step, In order to accelerate activities and support the start-up companies in Israel a government budget of \$50 million has been allocated.

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Accelerating pace of technological changes, especially in the development of software used in Automated Driving Systems, a new approach to the formulation of the Vehicle Safety Standards is required.

A roundtable discussion on high-level autonomy vehicle regulations with participants from the EU countries, the United States, South Asian countries, representatives of car manufacturers and entrepreneurs was held in Israel two weeks ago as part of the Israeli Smart Mobility Summit. We intend to continue this dialogue and hope for the participation of representatives from this forum.

Finally, I would like to thank the EuroMed, especially Mr. Michalis Adamantiadis the Team Leader & Road Freight Transport Key Expert, and this forum for giving us the opportunity to participate in this conference and to say that we will be happy to share information and cooperate with the relevant working parties.

Thank you for your attention