

Geneva, 19th of February 2019

12.00 - 12.45

*SPEECH of Mr. Ion IORDĂCHESCU, Secretary of State
Ministry of Transport, Romania*

Dear ministers,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of my country, Romania, I am honored to serve this year's high political segment of the annual Inland Transport Committee (ITC) - the most important body of the Transport Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

I am confident that this high-level meeting, dedicated to "*Enhancing Cooperation, Harmonization and Integration in the Age of Transport Digitalization and Automation*", will add value to a common understanding and prospects for the development of transport links. They are a significant tool for global transport development, which is one of the ultimate objectives within the ITC, in its quality of being a relevant part of the global transport policy platform - the United Nations Transport Division of the Economic Commission for Europe.

The main objective of the United Nations, along with the European Union and Romania, is to provide quality transport by using new technologies both in vehicles manufacturing and management, as well as in road traffic and transport infrastructures management. This objective will be accomplished when the mobility needs of the European economy and society will be fully met.

The development of intelligent transport systems, of an innovative, digitalized and automated mobility, are essential for progress, for a more efficient use of the existing infrastructure, for ensuring an improved mobility, transport safety and traffic optimization, and last, but not least, for a higher quality of life and number of saved human lives, as well as for a greener road transport.

In the transport sector, it is necessary to identify those solutions which allow the synergic use of new and traditional technologies, in compliance with international regulations. It is also necessary to establish future actions regarding UNECE standardization, data protection and cyber security, social impact and ethical aspects, cross-border testing, legislative changes and impact upon the transport operators.

Considering the studies, which have proved that performing autonomous driving can be used mainly for electric vehicles, in the current context when some European countries take categorical decisions against Diesel vehicles up to prohibiting their usage, those countries and all our countries as well, should be aware of the high risk for the markets of the other European countries, which have a more tolerant legislation on this matter, to be invaded by diesel vehicles.

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Therefore, this high risk should be considered into account accordingly, and the necessary decisions should be taken in order to adapt and harmonize the legislation accordingly.

Romania considers that the public policies on promoting and informing the general public are important, as well as ensuring a good coordination of the responsible authorities in order to prepare and verify the impact of amending existing legislation (for example, in Romania: type approval legislation, road traffic legislation, insurance, etc. even for temporary checking and testing of technologies).

The new business models are, and will be based on digital services provided by means of vehicles. One vehicle value is already decided significantly, by its digital technology. Connected vehicles currently generate more and more data amounts and communicate with other vehicles and traffic infrastructure through wireless networks.

Romania supports the importance of research, development and innovation, in order to identify transferable, cooperative solutions.

Multidisciplinary research (in areas like transport, environment, and information technology) represents the competitiveness factor which will bring added value to the endeavors towards bringing new technologies and services on the market.

Romania believes that international cooperation on pilot projects on testing innovative technologies is equally necessary and beneficial, as it will allow the development of new traffic models of both automated and human-controlled vehicles, thus allowing a more efficient flow of passengers and goods, both in urban and extra-urban areas.

In line with the UN-EU vision and objectives for the global transport sector, Romania supports the acceleration and coordination in the implementation and use of connected and automated mobility systems, due to the key potential and role they play in the development of a more efficient, safer and greener passengers and goods flow.

To this end, Romania is committed to the development and harmonization of the legal framework in this field, at UN and EU levels. At the same time, we believe that another important step in order to introduce large scale connected and automated driving systems, under safety and security conditions, is to ensure interoperability of relevant standards, protocols and technologies, especially those in the field of information and communication technology, both within the European Union and between the European Union and other continents.

Moreover, Romania, in its acting Presidency of the European Council, reaffirms her involvement in promoting the relevant legislative projects, such as:

- The road infrastructure safety management, which is a priority file for the Romanian Presidency, as it facilitates the implementation of the solutions for a connected, cooperative and automated mobility; to this end, Romania aims at finalizing the negotiations with the European Parliament,
- The regulations on the acceptance of electronic information- concerning this file, Romania aligns with the EU pursuit of uniform legal framework and intends to obtain a general approach by June 2019, as digitalization is a way to increase the efficiency of transport services as well as to reduce administrative burden.

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Last, but not least, I am delighted to announce you that, on the 10th of January 2019, Romania has completed its internal procedures to become a part of the *Additional Protocol Regarding the Electronic Letter, adopted at Geneva on the 20th of February 2008, at the Convention Regarding the Contract for International Road Transport of Goods "Protocol on electronic CMR (e-CMR)"* and shall transmit the depository of the accessions instrument.

Thank you for your attention !