

Steve Phillips, CEDR statement at UNECE (19/2/2019)

NOTE CEDR is generally pronounced as in the tree - Cedar

The Conference of European Directors of Roads – representing 28 national road authorities in Europe – appreciates the opportunity to comment on this important subject.

The draft resolution on: *“Enhancing Cooperation, Harmonization and Integration in the Era of Transport Digitalization and Automation”* aligns with CEDR’s position on digitalisation.

CEDR is of the opinion that digitalisation will influence all aspects of transport. This includes the aspects of traffic operations such as connected vehicles, integrated network management (including intermodality) as well as the planning and management of infrastructure with tools such as Building Information Modelling (BIM) and the Internet of Things. Perhaps more importantly it will influence the relation between transport providers and users. Social media and the transparency of data are increasingly involved in both long-term planning and day-to-day management. The role of digitisation in the financing of our transport systems is another area of great interest. The internet has revolutionised commerce, but we are still at the beginning of the journey in terms of transport.

Connected and Automated Mobility is part of this development – and it is important to note that Connected is an intrinsically linked aspect of road authorities’ approach. The continuing acceleration of Connected & Automated Driving by vehicle manufacturers is going to have a significant impact on road operation, traffic regulation and traffic management. Road authorities can benefit from Connected & Automated Driving – as a part of Connected & Automated Mobility - if it can be implemented in order to improve policy objectives of safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally friendly mobility in the face of traffic growth, ageing infrastructure and limited public financing.

As road authorities, it is particularly welcoming to note the draft resolution’s reference to the importation aspects of *harmonization and interoperability, as well as safety, equitable access and intermodal integration, as essential preconditions for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals*. It is in achieving these goals, it is important to recognise that Connected & Automated Mobility is a tool and not an objective in its own right.

In developing and using the new tools that are becoming available, it is important to ensure that legislation and harmonisation facilitate the societal goals and not create any barriers to more widespread application. Many technologies are focussed on motorways, yet many of the societal objectives are challenges are more associated with non-motorway traffic – safety being a prime example. It is not in the interests of society if a focus on motorways distracts or even inhibits wider application - or worse increases any heightened sense of competition between motorways and railways. CEDR’s objective is a seamless transport system and achieving the promised benefits of connected and automated mobility is an objective to be shared with our partners and colleagues in the rail sector for common benefit.

CEDR welcomes the closer cooperation with all stakeholders especially the prospect of more structured public-private cooperation with the automotive and telecoms industries on research and deployment.

We look forward to widening this cooperation with the objectives to drive the needed advances in safety and security, decarbonisation and air quality, protection of nature; watercourse and habitats as well as the reliability and resilience of the systems.

Thanks for your attention and please feel free to contact us.