In light of the importance of the road sector for cross-border and transit transport, UNECE, IRU, PIARC and IRF are jointly organizing a side event entitled “Sustainable road transport connectivity across borders”. Senior representatives from the co-organizing organizations will open the 1.5 hours event involving high-level speakers from governments, and the private and NGO sectors.

The speakers and the participants will have the opportunity to discuss and exchange experience and good practices on the three pillars of sustainable road transport: efficiency, safety and environmental sustainability. In particular, the speakers will share the challenges they face in their road transport networks and operations, using these challenges as an opportunity to highlight the successful infrastructure and facilitation solutions which they have implemented, are piloting or which are emerging.

There will be a spotlight on various challenges relating to traffic rights, customs, contracts on the international carriage of goods by road, road safety, visa for professional drivers and crew, insurance, emission control, dimensions of vehicles, infrastructure standards, road signs and signals, vehicle regulations, the transport of dangerous goods and professional driver fatigue. Innovative infrastructure projects, pilot projects or initiatives from around the world will also be discussed.
16:30 – 16:50  Opening addresses

Mr. Yuwei Li, Director, Sustainable Transport Division, UNECE

Mr. Kiran Kapila, Chairman, IRF

Mr. Umberto de Pretto, Secretary General, IRU

Mr. Patrick Mallejacq, Secretary General, PIARC

Keynote presentations

Moderated by UNECE - Mr. Yuwei Li

16:50 – 17:05  Mr. Sergey Andreev, Deputy Director, Ministry of Transport, Russian Federation

This is an introduction to UNECE’s role and activities, including our primary role as the centre for UN transport-related conventions, and our new Transport Strategy to 2030. Key UNECE international conventions related to road transport will be identified and the benefits of accession to them shared.

17:05 – 17:20  Ms. Susanna Zammataro, Director General, IRF

This is an introduction on the International Road Federation (IRF) work on building enabling frameworks to plan, finance and deploy sustainable road infrastructure and transport. The focus will be on the Belt & Road Initiative and on the multi-stakeholders partnerships being set-up to support that process.

17:20 – 17:35  Mr. Yevgen Koziy, Senior Coordinator, BSEC

The Black Sea Region is a dynamic, developing region that needs to turn trade and transport challenges into opportunities to unleash its full potential for economic integration. The presentation gives a strategic overview on how insufficiently harmonised procedures for the carriage of goods can be addressed, prolonged stays at border crossing points can be reduced and electronic documentation can be expedited to interconnect every business and market in the Black Sea Region.

17:35 – 17:50  Mr. Patrick Mallejacq, Secretary General, PIARC

This is an introduction to the World Road Association (PIARC) activities on knowledge exchange on road infrastructure and transport and our work with Low and Middle-Income Countries. Our most recent outputs, such as our report on Electric Road Systems, and our holistic strategies on global issues such as resilience and road safety will be presented.

17:50 – 18:00  Questions and Answers; Closing

UNECE Moderator