



Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation,
Sweden

Ministerial meeting of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee,
21 February 2017:

**Remarks by Mrs. Anna Johansson,
Minister of Infrastructure of SWEDEN**

- Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to address this important body on a topic which is important to my country, Sweden.
- Cities, regions and states all over the world of today face several challenges connected to transport.
- CO₂ emissions from the transport sector are contributing to climate change. Increased urbanisation leads to congested roads in cities all over the world. Road safety must be increased. This demands changes in our transport system.
- In order to facilitate our work, it is important to focus on the future, where digitalisation, connection and full automation are cooperating parts of the transport system. To get there we have to share experiences between nations.
- To take full advantage of the coming technologies, I believe that we have to reach for the deployment of both fully connected and automated vehicles - level four and five - and a good level of penetration of automated vehicles in the transport system.

- A harmonized legal framework is important. We think that a flexible, but still responsible, legal framework for intelligent and connected vehicles will facilitate innovation and development.
- It is important to use existing rules and systems if possible and to regulate especially for these vehicles only when it is necessary.
- Semi-automated driving technology is now being introduced in several new cars. This is not science fiction any more - it is science fact.
- This is why the Inland Transport Committee and the UNECE are so important arenas, a cross-border, international perspective is important when setting up the sustainable transport system of the future.
- The Swedish Government's Innovation Partnership Programmes are a concerted effort to find innovative solutions to a number of major challenges facing society today.
- Transportation is one of the chosen themes for the Innovation Partnership Programmes. Partnerships between different sectors of society are needed to enable us to find new innovative solutions that strengthen competitiveness, contribute to sustainable development and create more jobs.
- Electric roads are a highly interesting option in our pursuit for a sustainable transport system. The concept of electric roads is interesting from many perspectives; climate, innovation, jobs and enterprise policy.
- The Swedish demonstration section is the world's first electric road for heavy trucks on a public road. The electrically

powered hybrid trucks bring commercial cargo and are a part of the regular fleet. It's demonstration in real life.

- We have seen numerous cases of how changed environmental and climate policies spur the emergence of new sustainable solutions and new business opportunities. The involvement of industry and businesses is a necessity if we are to achieve the goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- For Sweden, it is of value that the ITC prioritize the core tasks of managing and developing the conventions, whereby it is important to make use of the opportunities that digitalisation and automation offers.
- There is a need to continue to discuss how the regulatory structure and processes within the ITC may be further developed in order to utilize the benefits of automated driving to a greater extent.
- We need pilot projects for the new technology. This year, there will be 100 self-driving cars on public roads in Gothenburg. The *DriveMe project*, involving self-driving cars, will address not only technical solutions but also regulatory issues, human-machine interaction and infrastructure.
- Even if it is possible to perform tests today, we are not satisfied. Sweden is currently reviewing the legal framework to enhance the development of intelligent and connected cars. During this spring, we are adjusting the rules for testing to clarify and widen the possibilities. In November, an inquiry will put forward its' suggestions on an implementation. Many other countries are in a similar developmental stage. This is why it is so important that we meet here in Geneva today.

- The fast development of C-ITS and automation of transport and vehicles will be a game-changer for the whole transport area, as well as for the industry.
- In this context, I'd like to mention road safety, which is an important issue for Sweden. We've come a long way thanks to our ambitious and holistic Vision Zero approach.
- It is our belief that it is important to stimulate the development of automated and connected vehicles also because this holds great potential to improve safety on our roads.
- The UNECE member states, EU member states and the EU institutions as well as industry, NGOs and academia will all have to unite our efforts in order to enhance development and competitiveness in this field.
- Thank you for your attention.