

UNECE ITC February 21st Geneva

Statement from the Netherlands
As pronounced by Serge van Dam

Your excellencies, distinguished guests,

In April 2016 Europe's transport ministers, the European Commission and ACEA have endorsed the 'Declaration of Amsterdam' in which all parties agreed to work together to ensure a successful deployment of connected and automated driving across Europe.

As already mentioned by several previous speakers, during the High Level meeting that was hosted last week on the 15th of February by the Netherlands as the follow-up of the Declaration of Amsterdam, the participating States, the EC and the industry have concluded that the developments have further accelerated. To be ready for the deployment of connected and automated driving in 2019, the execution of the actions in the Declaration should also be accelerated. States should cooperate more intensively: Transport is international.

Last week's meeting has led to a shared agenda for future informal high level meetings. They are to be bi-annually organized by member states. Germany, Austria, Sweden and Spain are next. Issues will be:

- Joint European approach
- Use of data from vehicles
- Vehicle to vehicle communication
- Cross border testing
- Coherent international, European and national regulation

The close cooperation in UNECE is of major importance. The participants in the high-level meeting have emphasized the need for short term analysis and possible solutions in the context of the Geneva and Vienna conventions and the related (vehicle) regulations. A fast solution is necessary to provide a basis for all levels of automation. Therefore, the High Level Meeting supports the route of UN-ECE WP1 to consider common interpretation of the Vienna and Geneva conventions and of UN-ECE WP29 to revise existing UN regulations and develop new ones in order to cover new automated technologies. The high level meeting looks forward to discuss the first results in autumn 2017. A shared interpretation by all stakeholders and users is very crucial to move forward aiming to allow a fast introduction of automated vehicles. This is also a key element of the declaration that will be signed this afternoon.

The participants in the high-level meeting strive for the implementation of advantages of technological innovation in all areas of inland transport especially in vehicle regulations and automated systems in vehicles to work on short-term solutions, including common interpretation, in order to make these developments possible. The participating States will discuss how to make use of the work at UNECE level and will actively translate and implement the shared interpretation of the Geneva and Vienna conventions. Let us work together to make connected and automated driving successful.

Thank you.