

**PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**Closing Statement**

**by**

**Mr. Jerzy Kleniewski**

**Chairman of the Inland Transport Committee**

**On the occasion of the**

**Seventieth anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee**

**[Past and Future of the UNECE Inland Transport Committee](#)**

**21 February 2017**

**Salle XVII, 10.00 - 18.00**

## **Excellences, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is my distinct honour and privilege to address this meeting under my capacity as Chair of the Inland Transport Committee and to do so a few minutes after a historic moment that marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Inland Transport Committee of UNECE: the signature of the Ministerial Resolution “Embracing the New Era for Sustainable Inland Transport and Mobility”. This resolution reflects our collective will to see the work and global reach of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies strengthened while also acknowledging its past contributions.

It was said earlier today that this Ministerial Conference comes at a critical moment for the international community, in the aftermath of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. Judging by the collective support that world transport leaders so generously extended today, I have no doubt the Inland Transport Committee will rise to the occasion and help serve or even define this new era of sustainability through the development of affordable, efficient and environmentally sound transport systems.

But this is no time for complacency. Ministers from around the world asked today to improve the visibility of the work of the Committee and to better serve the global constituency of the UN Transport Conventions under its responsibility, for example by reporting in parallel to the UNECE and ECOSOC. How can we achieve these worthy goals within existing structures and at times of economic constraints? **The first step** towards answering these questions and operationalizing this politically important document that was signed today **starts tomorrow**. At 10.00 am the “Chair’s meeting” which is open to governments only as well as the Chairs of Working Parties and Administrative Committees will convene in sale XII in order to discuss the future strategy of the Inland Transport Committee. This is an important meeting and for those government representatives not attending other parallel meetings - the High Level Conference on Inland Water or the Capacity-building workshop on UN Transport Conventions – **I look forward to seeing you in Room XII** at 10.00. The open session of the Committee will reconvene at 15.00.

It is only appropriate that after a big success, a celebration follows. I look forward to seeing you at the IRU cocktail that will take place at the 8<sup>th</sup> floor Restaurant in order to celebrate the important accomplishments of the day. Thank you very much for your attention.

I hereby close this meeting!