Sustainable road transport: a key component of the global economy

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Door-to-door road transport, whether as a sole mode of transport or as a partner to other modes, provides irreplaceable services, irrigating the local or global economy, while uniting people and distributing wealth more effectively, thus ensuring social and economic development. The global economy cannot function without road transport and the challenge is to make this transport compatible with sustainable development, a priority issue for the IRU and its Members. Therefore, the IRU and its Members are doing their best to achieve this goal through improved productivity and road safety, energy savings at source, reductions in emissions and other environmental impacts.

Today, due to the opening of markets and the advent of the internet, each one of us is an actor of globalisation and each one of us is already in cooperation or in competition with everyone in the world! This is why road transport, which is all around us and always at the disposal of everyone, has become a vital production tool in all economies and the motor of economic, social and environmental progress. Moreover, road transport, with its unique door-to-door passenger and goods transport services, unites mankind and improves the distribution of wealth!

The paper discusses:

- Modular Concept and co-modality to promote better than more road transport
- Emission standards to ensure greener road transport
- Intelligent Transport System (ITS) applications to increase road transport efficiency and safety

The paper concludes that road transport in a globalised economy has become an efficient and unique production tool. As such, its progress goes hand in hand with new technologies, tools, methods and systems to make it the most flexible and accessible transport mode available to everyone everywhere. In this framework, the difficulty is thus to prevent misusing these tools and keep their use voluntary to all road transport stakeholders.