

CITIZEN SUMMARY

ACTION PLAN FOR THE DEPLOYMENT OF INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

What is the problem?

There are more cars and trucks on the roads driving more kilometres. As a result we are facing more traffic jams, higher fuel bills and increased CO₂ emissions. More than 40 000 people continue to be killed on EU roads each year. These problems cannot be solved by building additional or extended roads.

Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) can contribute to the solution by making transport safer, more efficient and competitive, more sustainable and more secure. ITS does this by applying the latest information and communication technologies (telephone, satellite, computer, etc.) to transport. Examples in road transport include travel information, navigation and Electronic Stability Control (ESC).

Use of ITS in road transport in Europe is still uneven, however. A **patchwork** of national, regional and local solutions is slowing down overall deployment and fails to provide seamless service.

What solution is being proposed?

It is being proposed **to accelerate and coordinate the deployment and use of ITS applications and services** for road transport and their connections with other modes of transport, to ensure seamless access and continuity of services throughout the EU.

The proposed **Action Plan** includes specific measures in six areas:

- *Optimal use of road and traffic data*
- *Traffic and freight management*
- *Road safety and security*
- *Integrating ITS applications in the vehicle*
- *Data protection and liability*
- *European ITS co-ordination*

The Commission will be assisted in its work by a **European ITS Committee** (with representatives of the EU countries) to exchange information and decide on actions and a **European ITS Advisory Group** (with representatives from e.g. industry, transport operators, users and other relevant fora and associations) to advise on business, technical and user aspects.

What are the benefits?

The direct benefit will be a **faster, better coordinated and more harmonised use of intelligent transport systems and services**, which in turn will contribute to **more efficient, cleaner and safer transport**.

Stakeholders who will benefit are:

- **Industry:** clear policy and a wider potential market for ITS services
- **Consumers:** earlier and wider availability of services increasing driving safety, comfort and efficiency; lower prices of ITS components and services
- **Transport users:** less congestion, less accidents, more travel options

Why is action taken at EU level?

Seamless EU-wide deployment of services for travel information and traffic management requires EU-level coordination. For example, this will require common specifications to ensure the reliable exchange of information across borders. The Commission has the power to act on the basis of the common transport policy laid down in the EU Treaty.

How will it work? When will the proposal take effect?

Work can start immediately. Each action area has specific action points and a timetable. The European ITS committee and advisory group will be set up once the relevant directive comes into effect.