



G7 declaration on automated and connected driving

Digitalization is about to usher in a historic revolution in the field of mobility – automated and connected driving. Mobility will assume a completely new dimension. The vehicle will turn into the "third place", i.e. into another important connected place in peoples lives alongside their homes and offices. Driving will evolve from an activity that is necessary for getting from A to B into a new, productive time window. Real-time vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure data communication will make traffic flows predictable, combat congestion and reduce the number of accidents. By connecting them with their surroundings, vehicles will become fully digitalized mobility, information and communications platforms. Automated and connected driving will have a major impact on the traditional perception of road transport.

The transport ministers of the G7 states and the European Commissioner for Transport are fully aware of these potential impacts and influence of automated and connected driving on society as a whole.

The mobility of the future will be safe, secure, clean, efficient and more accessible – and will present an enormous potential for growth and prosperity. Automated and connected driving can significantly improve traffic flows, reduce the incidence of critical situations, optimize the handling of corresponding scenarios, relieve the pressure on drivers and aid the environment by reducing emissions, generate added value and create new jobs. These developments indeed contribute to a more sustainable road transport encouraged by the transport ministers of the G7 States and the European Commissioner for Transport. As market penetration grows and the degree of automation rises, the benefits that can be derived from these developments will increase.

In these respects, the transport ministers of the G7 States and the European Commissioner for Transport jointly support the developments in the field of automated



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and connected driving with the objective of making a significant contribution towards increasing road safety and improved mobility worldwide.



However, it will not be possible to fully harness this potential, which is of benefit to society as a whole, unless appropriate steps to establish a harmonized regulatory framework are taken to enable the safe deployment of these innovative technologies across national borders.

Fundamental issues regarding the role and obligations of drivers will have to be resolved. Moreover, it will be essential to make automated and connected driving technologies reliable enough in a timely manner so that they are safe in every respect. The “reliability” of the technology is a basic prerequisite for ensuring that the digital mobility revolution is a success in all areas.

With regard to automated driving,

- coordinating research, promoting international standardization within an international regulatory framework,
- evolving the technical regulations and
- ensuring data protection and cyber security

are of outstanding significance and will require sustained cooperation among the G7 transport ministers and the European Commissioner for Transport.

A key prerequisite for the widespread deployment of innovative and reliable technologies in road transport is that modern vehicle systems are legally permissible and suitable for mass production. Revising, as appropriate, regulations applicable in the G7 states, and those established under the agreements administered by the UN World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (Working Party 29) - is of crucial importance. The transport ministers of the G7 and the European Commissioner for Transport anticipate that higher automation functions are likely to be first used on near motorway standard roads. Based on the lessons learned there, it is then likely to gradually find its way into more complex fields of application and ultimately also be deployed in urban and regional transport. The objective is to boost the positive impact that the aforementioned activities are likely to have on road safety.



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The transport ministers of G7 states and the European Commissioner for Transport will jointly encourage the developments in the field of automated and connected driving – in particular in the action areas mentioned above – and exploit the opportunities for growth and prosperity that are inherent in the mobility of the future. They also consider that these developments could be combined with the promotion of smart and sustainable transportation systems, including walking and biking, and the use of clean vehicles that can also contribute to a more sustainable road transport. In that regard, they promote efforts under the Action Agenda, with a view to contribute to the success of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations' Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The transport ministers of the G7 states agree to hold their next meeting in 2016 in Karuizawa, Nagano (Japan) under the Japanese presidency and continue this discussion.