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# Intelligent Transport Systems and Services: initiative for accelerated deployment across Europe

*The European Commission today took a major step towards the deployment and use of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in road transport. ITS can significantly contribute to a cleaner, safer and more efficient transport system. The action plan adopted today suggests a set of concrete measures and a Directive laying down the framework for their implementation.*

*"Making transport greener, reducing congestion and saving lifes on Europe's roads are high priorities for the Commission. Intelligent Transport Systems will help us make progress towards achieving these goals. Today's initiative will therefore foster a more efficient, safer and more sustainable mobility in Europe",* said Antonio Tajani, Commission Vice-President responsible for transport.

"The Intelligent Transport System Action Plan proposed by the Commission today will provide much needed policy instruments to complement the work that the Intelligent Car initiative and the eSafety forum have been doing to make cars safer, cleaner and smarter," said Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media. "We are determined to drive Europe towards cleaner, safer and less congested road transport, and the early roll-out of life saving breakthroughs like ESC and eCall."

Intelligent Transport Systems apply information and communication technologies to various modes of transport, which can make European road users safer and less likely to get stuck in traffic, which in the long run can reduce their carbon footprint. The action plan, launched today as part of the Greening Transport[1] initiative, aims to accelerate the deployment of these systems in road transport, and their interfaces with other modes of transport.

From commuters to hauliers, everybody needs reliable, real-time traffic information for better routing planning and to avoid delays caused by traffic jams. Multi-modal travel planners will allow seamless travel in and between cities and towns and across borders. Relatively small investments in Intelligent Transport Systems can allow better use of existing infrastructure. The action plan proposes strong European coordination of ITS and services in various Member States to accelerate the deployment of these systems across Europe.

Intelligent Transport Systems can substantially reduce road sector $CO_2$ emissions. The costs of traffic congestion – estimated at 1% of the European GDP – could be reduced by up to 10% through the deployment of ITS, and could prevent more than 5000 deaths in road accidents.

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[1] See IP/08/1119

For more information, please see:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/its/

More information on the eSafety forum and the Intelligent Car initiative, launched in 2006 to promote the use of information and communication technologies for smarter, safer and cleaner road transport, is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/esafety/index_en.htm