

2nd POLISH ITS CONGRESS

FINAL CONCLUSIONS:

2nd Polish ITS Congress, held in Warsaw on May 26-27, 2009, attracted about 200 participants - representatives of the companies operating in the ITS field, the world of science, public administration and municipal governments, and people interested in the issues of Intelligent Transport Systems.

The participants listened with interest to the information presented by the representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure. High hopes may be linked to a study "Strategy of ITS development in Poland", which was commissioned to a consultant selected in a tender procedure. The study's completion is scheduled by the end of this year, and its acceptance by the Ministry of Infrastructure – in the beginning of 2010. Development of the "Strategy" takes place in the context of the Action Plan for the development of ITS in the member countries, recently adopted by the European Commission.

2nd Polish ITS Congress was fruitful and contributed to a further promotion of the ITS concept and their applications. The promotion requires close cooperation of the public sector, private sector, NGOs and academics.

From the public sector we expect, in particular at the government level, actions for ITS development and promotion, in accordance with the plan adopted by the European Council, and introduction of appropriate legal regulations, to allow and encourage this development.

The private sector, including the manufacturers of ITS equipment and subsystems, expects before all the standardization of ITS solutions, so as to ensure technical compatibility between the various ITS subsystems, and the openness of these subsystems. Development and implementation of the government ITS development strategy will provide business opportunities in this field. Unfortunately, this is still a distant and hence uncertain prospect.

ITS solutions are characterized by much higher efficiency than the traditional investments in the "heavy" transport infrastructure. This fact, although confirmed in several countries more developed than Poland, did not find reflection in public awareness in our country, nor in the minds of the transport infrastructure decision-makers. We believe that this state of affairs should be changed. We call on the central government and the local governments to recognize the need for an intensified action to promote such changes. In particular, necessary resources should be provided for the shaping of public awareness in the field of ITS, including:

- development of the materials informing about and popularizing ITS,
- development of ITS educational materials,
- the promotion and popularization of ITS.

We call attention to the possibilities offered by the Intelligent Transport Systems to improve the conditions of the public transport. Priority for the public transport, by the use of traffic control systems, and by improving the quality of public transport is a necessity. At the same time, we draw attention to the impact of ITS systems, used for traffic management, on the quality of pedestrian and bicycle traffic in the areas covered by those systems.

Departmental regulations and bylaws are one of the ITS development barriers. Implementation of available, advanced ITS solutions depends on the modification of existing legal framework. Acceleration of the modification process is necessary, considering the dates of entry into force of the laws – both domestic and EU – acts of a higher order. At present the lack of progress in the modification of a legal framework for the introduction of an Electronic Toll Collection system in Poland is, among others, of concern to us. We also call attention to the need of modification of much of the existing legislation so as not to block the implementation of good solutions in the traffic management. On the other hand, more attention should be paid to compliance of the ITS projects with existing law. In particular, we call for a change of the existing legislation – to enable wider use of ITS subsystems in enforcing the traffic regulations.

The Conclusions Commission
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