

ASECAP ROAD SAFETY EVENT

European Parliament, Brussels, 18.03.2019

COPER II VICE-CHAIR EMANUELA STOCCHI FINAL REMARKS

- Good evening everyone and congratulations Geoff Meade for your great job, you have efficiently managed to moderate an interesting panel made of a variety of representatives from different backgrounds and professional experiences, this was very interesting indeed!
- My task now is to summarize and wrap-up the today discussion and trying to find conclusions, to find key messages and reflections for all of us after the discussion and the presentations we heard, well not an easy job for me, but I have taken notes since the beginning of the Conference, I duly made my homework for you.
- I do not intend to make a summary of the various speeches and presentations we listened to during the evening; on the contrary what I have done is to isolate, to extract some key words I heard this Conference, key words that in my view represent the main points of the overall discussion; these words are the following 5:
 - **RESPONSIBILITY**
 - **COMMITMENT**
 - **ENFORCEMENT**
 - **EDUCATION**
 - **COOPERATION**
- **RESPONSIBILITY:** or better SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. We heard in the opening remarks ASECAP President Halkias, PIARC President Van Rooten and IRF Vice President Benazzouz saying that we are all involved in Road Safety, we are all concerned because improving Road Safety levels on the European roads, providing our customers and users with safer infrastructure is indeed a shared responsibility among road operators, stakeholders and policy-makers. Shared responsibility is also highlighted several times by Commissioner Bulc and Mr. Baldwin mentioned that too during his speech.

- **COMMITMENT:** another key word that I have taken this evening and which is linked to the shared responsibility. Road Safety is indeed a theme that goes to the heart of what every transportation professional is committed to achieve, every single day that we are on our business and especially the ASECAP members gathered here this evening, the toll highways' concessionaires are fully committed to bring forward their efforts and activities to support the European Commission "Vision Zero" action plan aimed at improving road safety levels with the interaction among vehicles, infrastructure and users.
- **ENFORCEMENT:** yes enforcement, because there are rules to be respected, we have a Road Code with provisions and obligations in each Country, regulating how to behave when driving vehicles, but then we need all these rules to be enforced, to be duly and fully applied and we heard the interesting contribution from TISPOL, from the European Traffic Police, whose incoming President Mr. Viktor Orben said enforcement plays a key role in improving Road Safety. Indeed, we can apply the best technologies in the world, the most up-to-dated, we can have the best levels and performances of road management and operations, but if rules are not respected and law is not enforced then we loose.
- **EDUCATION:** in order to respect the rules users and citizens need to be educated to Road Safety. With ASECAP we have chosen to dedicate this Conference to the theme of distraction, to the distracted driving and we heard from our experts Cendrine Nazos (VINCI) and Bernhard Lautner (ASFINAG) impressive facts and figures about this very dangerous phenomenon. Well we need then to improve EDUCATION, we need to educate our drivers to be careful and to behave in the most correct way when driving and this is particularly important when we educate the future drivers and young people: several concessionaires invest a lot in public awareness campaigns mainly intended to be addressed to the school, to the youth, in order to raise up future drivers respecting the road code's rules and fulfilling all the requirements in order to get the driving licence. EDUCATION is really a key. MEP Kirkos underlined in the opening remarks the importance of focusing on users' behavior, Mr. Baldwin pointed out as well the need to raise users' awareness about Road Safety. Mr. Boutin (ASFA) added that we should be able to adapt the Road Safety communications' campaigns according to the different users' categories or targets, in order the Road Safety messages to be better received and understood. Mrs. Zammataro (IRF) suggested also

to think about a measurement of the impact that the public awareness campaigns have on users' behavior.

- **COOPERATION:** we spoke about shared responsibility, commitment, enforcement and education and I strongly believe we can make the difference, we can give a great contribution to Road Safety if we cooperate together, in events like tonight for instance (Mr. Ulrich Veh from ACEA highlighted the positive approach of reflecting together and working together on the distracted driving problem). We have the opportunity to be successful if each of us - representing the highways' concessionaires, the public Institutions, the automotive industry, the Traffic Police, the stakeholders, the users - we listen to each other and we carry out joint analysis, studies, initiatives, projects aimed at further improving Road Safety.
- And in this spirit of cooperation I would like to close my final remarks and give you an example of real cooperation, also on Road Safety, between two Associations involved in road transportation: ASECAP and IRF, that are going to sign a MoU, in which there is specific reference to joint efforts, cooperative efforts towards Road Safety. Therefore now, without any further due, I am pleased to invite here ASECAP President Bill Halkias and IRF Vice President Anouar Benazzouz to come on the stage and sign the ASECAP-IRF Memorandum of Understanding. Thank you all for your attention and for your participation to the ASECAP Conference!