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LYON DECLARATION

TEXT

- We, ECTRI, FEHRL, FERSI, EURNEX, HUMANIST, ISN and NEARCTIS,
- Meeting in Lyon-Bron, France, at the opportunity of the French EU Presidency event on “Sustainable transport and mobility and climate change challenge” organised by INRETS,
- Representing an active part of the European Surface Transport scientific community,
- Taking into account the prominent role of transport in the key challenges that society and economy face (energy, climate change, globalization, congestion and capacity, safety and security, ageing population),
- Committed to the success of the European Research Area in the field of transport research,
- Considering the solemn approval by the European Ministers of Science Council of the European Research Area (ERA) Vision 2020 on December 2, 2008,
- Having in mind the European Economic Recovery Plan announced on November 26, 2008 (COM(2008) 800),
- Approve the following Lyon Declaration, and invite all transport related research stakeholders to support it by discussions, actions, and further developments:



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The Vision:

- 1- We welcome the ERA Vision 2020 as approved by the Council of Ministers of Science during their December 2, 2008 meeting and commit ourselves to contribute to its implementation.
- 2- We will follow the next steps of the “Ljubljana” process and adapt it to the specific circumstances of our research community (ERA road map, ERA governance, ERA implementation, ERA funding).
We will create a common working task force consisting of the signatories and other relevant parties to inform all surface transport research stakeholders of our progress. This working task force will be open to all transport related research stakeholders and will support the activities of the European Technology Platforms and other Initiatives.
- 3- We consider surface transport related research and expertise to be of crucial relevance to tackle the key challenges of energy, climate change, globalization, congestion and capacity, safety and security, and ageing population, faced by society, economy and policy makers.
- 4- We will address together the necessity of further developing the dialogue between research and society, specifically the societal relevance of scientific expertise, and ethical and deontological rules.
- 5- We are committed to develop world-leading scientific and technical excellence in Europe through coordination and cooperative actions at European level in order to reinforce Europe’s competitiveness in the long term in line with the key objective of pillar 2 of the European Economic Recovery Plan. These actions will be interfaced at a global level through existing and eventual partnerships of our networks.



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The ERA Governance:

- 6- We fully agree with the new governance principles as proposed by the ERA Vision 2020 and presented during our ERA Green Paper Plenary session.
- 7- We fully adhere to the Fifth European Freedom, especially to human resource aspects including gender equality, to the quality of research infrastructures, to the autonomy of research organisations and to the dissemination of knowledge.
- 8- Based on the experience of our own networks, we firmly believe that open trans-national physical or virtual networks are essential to cope with the key challenges and to promote interdisciplinary approaches in order to offer best scientific knowledge to all relevant stakeholders.

Education and Training:

- 9- We agree on the European Research Partnership idea but we draw the attention on the fact that specific training and education of the new scientists' generation, including gender equality issues, are required to be closely adapted to the surface transport needs, not only for the researchers but also for the new research and innovation administrators' generation and others.
We propose that, besides the thematic ones, a European Institute of Technology and Innovation (EIT) Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) should be created as a European Academy, including institutions such as EURail University.



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Research Infrastructures:

- 10- We are convinced of the need of improving or creating all the required research infrastructures, hard and soft, and increasing research capacities complementary to the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) agenda. We state that we consider this issue critical for the roadmap and implementation phase of the ERA Vision 2020 in our field because of the international competitive advantages that it would offer transport European research.
- 11- To cope with the key challenges, we need to have good scientific data and knowledge bases that are formatted both for academia (Universities and other High Education bodies, research and technological organisations and Research Public organisations), as well as business (all economical sectors) and consultants or policy makers.
- 12- Open access to knowledge is essential. The ECTRI conceived European Transport Research Review (ETRR) scientific journal is a first action, a network of libraries will be another step. The signatories agree to work together to create a true sector-side platform for the exchange of knowledge, dissemination of research and the translation of political aspiration into research needs, on the basis of existing conferences such as TRA, ETC, ITS, EURNEX-ZEL.
- 13- We are committed to the setting-up of world-class research facilities and technology demonstrators, Field Operational Tests and Test Beds, especially with a rapid development and harmonization of shared or distributed infrastructures. This is critical for good scientific knowledge to achieve better regulation and standardisation and to improve European competitiveness and societal acceptance.
- 14- We believe that Joint Research Initiatives should support this type of networking efforts. This will include activities of existing and future Networks of Excellence or Virtual Centres of Excellence and research infrastructures.
- 15- To support the overall objectives of the European Economic Recovery Plan and ensure its long term contribution to Europe, we commit to ensure the maximum efficiency of the necessary increased investment in R&D, Innovation, and Education infrastructures in full compliance with actions 8 and 9 of the European Economic Recovery Plan and in line with the fourth priority area of the Lisbon Strategy.



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Evaluation and Joint Programming:

16- We converge on the necessity to form and implement appropriate international standards, addressing evaluation of excellence and relevance for research organisations, research programmes and research projects.

We also acknowledge necessity for incentive measures to make possible a wider access to high standards of excellence throughout the European Research Area.

17- We understand that European joint programming and coordination could be for some subjects or processes common, reinforced or “à la carte” leading to a new allocation of the role of EU, Member States, intergovernmental, besides local and regional authorities.

International cooperation:

18- We consider that international cooperation with the triplet, “partnership, barter, gift” around clear Intellectual Property Rules (IPR), as mentioned in the INCO EC experts group on ERA Green Paper, will be after win-win situations for ERA. We support such type of vision, roadmap and instruments as it is already proposed or done for transatlantic research cooperation by some of us.

19- Primary targets for such cooperation and future actions are again linked to the aforementioned key challenges,



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Content side:

20- As 2020 is covering the time lag till the end of the forthcoming FP8 and including FP7 updating and the next generation of national programmes, the signatories took the opportunity to consider concrete ideas that are relevant for surface transport.

21- We are committed to discuss and share these first content ideas with all relevant surface transport research stakeholders including all the interested European Technological Platforms (ETPs) in the view of discussing their relevance and finding instruments for their implementation.

Signatories, Lyon – 11 December 2008

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