

InIR – PORTUGUESE ROAD AUTHORITY

**SITUATION OF PORTUGAL ON ITS
POINT OF VIEW OF ITS FOR PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION**

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Dear representative of the European Commission;

Dear EasyWay fellowship;

Dear Friends, good afternoon!

This is quite an honor!...

On behalf of the Portuguese Easyway partnership, I would like to thank you all, again, for being here.

As you may be aware, **the world is changing**.

And to cope with such a fast changing world, we must be more and more creative and innovative.

Creativity lies on the willingness to find and imagine fresher and better ways to face our challenges.

Innovation means taking advantage of creativity as a way to transform society and economy, accordingly to a vision.

As Mr. Ján Figel' (the Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth during the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009), so perfectly said, *"Creativity and innovative capacity have crucial long-term benefits for the economy, society, enterprises as well as individuals.*

Innovation and creativity are fundamental pillars for sustainable economic and societal growth”.

So where does it all begin?

In an idea!

Within ourselves!

Meaning: We are the change.

By changing ourselves, we begin to change others. By changing others, we begin to change the world. By changing the world, we change the future.

And the future becomes what we have envisioned.

And what kind of future do we want?

Finding a common answer between us all will provide us the vision for the future we want.

Let’s think about this for a moment.

... a common answer between us all...

... will give us the vision...

... a common answer!

So for the vision to become our future **we need a common answer.**

And I think this is what EasyWay is all about...

Yes, I believe that we stand here today because we have found a common answer, because we share the same vision and because we look at this path as a challenge to be jointly and successfully surpassed.

I believe we stand here today, because we have changed!

Yes, Europe has changed. And, allow me to talk about Portugal, that is proudly hosting the Forum this year: through these past three years we have also changed, being now, more than ever, completely focused on our common future.

Portugal has introduced a new model for the road sector, based upon a regulatory body: InIR, the Portuguese Institute for Infrastructure Road Sector regulation.

This regulatory body defends and represents the road user. It is its mission to supervise and oversee the management and operation of the road network, monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and concession agreements, to ensure the completion of the National Road Plan and the efficiency, equity, quality and safety of infrastructure, upholding the users' rights.

So, alongside with Europe, Portugal is making its path towards a common future. A path that lies on optimism, cooperation and involvement.

A path that has brought together both the public and the private sector, **beyond contractual boundaries**. A path we all call EasyWay.

So for us, being here today, after only two years of InIR's involvement , is truly quite an amazing achievement!

As first steps, we have built a formal consultation process, between our partners, in order to better promote the adoption of decisions, regarding the development of EasyWay's Program.

Nevertheless, much is still to be done.

A lot of stakeholders from the public and private sector still need to be addressed and captivated as partners: enforcement bodies, emergency services, universities, Research and Development centers, the industry and so on.

Now, with the publication of the ITS Directive, in July, a positive work frame for the deployment of ITS Services across Europe is set, and Portugal will pursue its most immediate objective: The National ITS Plan.

If there is a lesson learned from this past couple of years is that **we need to be involved**.

Having in mind the potential of ITS, as a way to change the world as we know it, while placing the road user in the center of the perspective, has provided us with an ambition.

It is now our task to enhance further involvement of all interested parts in order, on one side, to contribute with creativity and audacity for the building up of this vision, while, on the other hand, expect those efforts to result in real change for those who will take advantage of our efforts, on a daily basis: the road user.

Yes! Change is about to come and **we are the change.**

Nevertheless, EasyWay is probably now facing its most difficult task, so far: to be able to pull it together in an integrated perspective, finding true synergies, transport and infrastructure symbioses, complementary integration between Information Technologies and user friendly interfaces to promote also the individual change, we all aim for.

It is a huge opportunity, to back up those efforts, with the European Commission Policy compliance. It is also a huge responsibility, because success lies in one single thing:

A common answer.

A common answer can only be achieved while regarding two simple values: **to Share and to Cooperate.**

So I hope that this may be no ordinary event, but a truly exceptional one.
One which will, for sure, inspire us.

The floor is set.

May the Annual Forum contribute to this **Shortcut to the future!**

Thank you!