

## A ROAD MANIFESTO

### FOR AN EFFICIENT, SAFE, SMART AND SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

#### 1. The European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures (ASECAP)

ASECAP is the European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures. It is the sole pan-European organization that brings together operators of more than 44.000 km of motorways, bridges and tunnels, from 20 countries<sup>1</sup>. The network of ASECAP's members thus constitutes a large part of the Trans-European Road Network.

ASECAP's mission is to promote tolling as the most efficient tool to finance the construction, operation and maintenance of motorways and other major road infrastructures. ASECAP and its members are committed to:

- Exchanging information and experience, participating in research programmes and further developing and enhancing the direct “user-payer” toll system as an instrument of a sustainable, safe and environmentally friendly transport policy.
- Strengthening the efficiency of their networks and permanently improving the level of services provided to the European citizens, by keeping up with the latest technology developments and the best operational practices.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: ASECAP Statistical Bulletin 2011.



## 2. ASECAP's commitment

### ASECAP AND ITS MEMBERS

**RECOGNISING** the European Commission's White Paper of 28 March 2011 "Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system" as one of the cornerstones of EU transport policy for the coming decades,

**STRESSING** the need for a stable policy framework and realistic scenarios that acknowledge the economic and social significance of goods transportation and citizen mobility,

**SUPPORTING** a long-term "infrastructure financing framework" based on the "user-payer" and "polluter-payer" principles,

**RECALLING** that modal choices will always be based on real cost and benefits, in terms of producer availability and customer satisfaction,

**STRESSING** that a sustainable co-modality is not a precondition but a direct result of a competitive transport reality where all modes compete and cooperate, each one of them being sustainable in itself,

### **ARE COMMITTED:**

- **TO PROMOTE** a safe, secure, environmentally sustainable transport mobility, and reliable and smooth traffic flows throughout Europe,
- **TO IMPLEMENT** efficient infrastructure management safeguarding smooth traffic flows throughout European networks,
- **TO DEPLOY** Intelligent Transport Systems by the development of efficient cooperative schemes,
- **TO FOLLOW** a coordinated European approach, targeting viable actions and inspired by realistic deployment-oriented Research and Innovation.

### 3. Key factors

ASECAP and its members recognize that the challenges facing the EU now and in the coming decades require limiting road transport's negative **economic, social and environmental impacts** to a minimum, but without restricting mobility. To this end, continued and coordinated efforts by policy-makers and industry are needed to manage traffic flows, provide real time information, increase safety and reduce congestion on Europe's roads. ASECAP's members dispose of vast expertise in monitoring and addressing the situation on their networks and are available for exchanging best practices.

ASECAP and its members are ready to:

- Reduce further the number of road fatalities and injuries throughout the EU<sup>2</sup>, towards "vision zero", contributing to the achievement of the European Commission's policy orientations on **road safety** 2011-2020. Besides the implementation of the relevant EU *acquis* – in particular regarding road infrastructure safety management and tunnel safety – ASECAP and its members are set to contribute to complementary actions, based on a coordinated approach involving all stakeholders.
- Safeguard a realistic view by all stakeholders involved in addressing the challenges relating to the design, construction and labelling of a pan-European network of secure truck parking and rest areas, which will necessitate practical management to increase driver and cargo security.
- Develop **reliable and smooth traffic** as essential characteristics of the full exploitation of current and future gains in road transport's resource efficiency. This requires efficient traffic management, underpinned by smart pricing and a pragmatic organisation of interoperability.
- Use sustainable materials, which allow controlling water and noise pollution, protect biodiversity and optimise landscape integration.

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<sup>2</sup> Over the past decade, the number of fatal road accidents has, for instance, already been reduced by up to approximately two thirds on the tolled motorways managed by ASECAP's members.

## **Essential tools**

In order to contribute to a safe, secure and environmentally sustainable mobility based on reliable traffic information and smooth management of traffic flows throughout Europe, ASECAP's members:

- Endeavour to **operate their networks as efficiently and intelligently as possible**, gathering and translating relevant data into structured information and targeted actions.
- Support the development and deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and in particular **cooperative systems** that connect infrastructure to infrastructure (I2I) and infrastructure to vehicle (I2V), while managing the human-machine interface (HMI).

## **Concrete actions**

ASECAP and its members confirm their readiness to contribute to ambitious but always **realistic deployment scenarios**, namely for ITS. This requires dynamic cooperation and coordination between road infrastructure operators, public authorities, vehicle manufacturers and road users, i.e. between all the essential links of the value chain that produces efficient, safe, smart and sustainable transport – as a service of a given quality, at a certain price.

In this respect, ASECAP and its members will act pursuant to a pan-European vision of road infrastructure – built for years, decades or even centuries – taking into account the importance of each part of the motorway network for the EU's competitiveness and cohesion.

Following the same result-oriented approach, ASECAP and its members will also participate in select **research, innovation and development** activities of European interest (whether funded by the EU or not), offering clear perspectives for the actual deployment of actions on Europe's roads to save lives, time and money and turn to a smarter and greener mobility.

### ***Appropriate financing***

Efficient, safe, smart and sustainable transport is a **high-quality service** provided at a given cost.

The provision of such a service requires **long-term public and private investments** in road infrastructures.

Although public resources will always be used, the concession model, public-private partnerships (PPP), tolling, the direct “user-payer” principle, as well as the “polluter-payer” principle have proven most efficient in helping to secure such financing, even in times of strained public budgets.

In the same vein, the road concessions may become major contributors to the further development of the primary transport networks in their regions, as the application of the “user-payer” principle in the EU could increasingly support the necessary investment costs by making the collected revenues part of the funding strategy at corridor-level.