

The European Commission has welcomed the European Parliament voting in favor yesterday of a new legal framework for intelligent transport systems (ITS).



ITS can significantly contribute to a cleaner, safer, and more efficient transport system. The Directive adopted yesterday should accelerate the deployment of innovative transport technologies across Europe.

Intelligent transport systems apply information and communication technologies to various modes of transport, in order to make them more efficient while minimising the negative effects on health, nature, the economy, and quality of life. The costs of traffic congestion—estimated at 1% of the European gross domestic product—can be reduced by 10% through the deployment of ITS. Intelligent technology in cars and trucks is expected to help prevent more than 5,000 deaths in road accidents each year.

The directive will support the ITS Action Plan and aims to establish a framework to accelerate and coordinate the deployment and use of ITS for road transport, including the interfaces with other transport modes. The first priorities will be traffic and travel information, the eCall emergency system, and intelligent truck parking.

Under this directive, the Commission has to adopt within the next seven years specifications including functional, technical, organizational, and services provisions to address the compatibility, interoperability, and continuity of ITS solutions across Europe. The Commission will also establish a European ITS Advisory Group, which will bring together representatives of relevant ITS stakeholders and advise the Commission on business and technical aspects of the implementation and deployment of ITS in the Union.