

Dear all,

First and foremost, I would like to thank the colleagues of the Belgian Ministry of Defence for their invitation. It is undoubtedly so that Safety and Security are two of the main attention points for the transport sector.

I can add that today, right now, there is a civilian High-Level Conference on Road Transport in Brussels. This is an event highlighting the “safety” component.

And so, I’m honoured to speak before you today to also illustrate that the "security" component is of great importance to our dual community, and that, in several aspects.

Firstly, this collaboration leverages technological advancements and investments in military **infrastructure**, enhancing civilian transportation systems. As you know, the best example of a military transport investment that benefited the civil society in a major way is the creation of the Roman roads that were initially designed to facilitate the advancement of the Roman army. The success of those famous generals like Julius Caesar was dependent on their superior logistical organization through these roads. But once they were there, these easy links between major settlements were a major stimulus for trade routes between what later would be the Hanseatic cities. And they were the basis for the Golden age of the city where this event now is held, Ghent.

Moreover, the cooperation has to go far beyond the investment on infrastructure. Dual mobility fosters **innovation** in the transportation sector by encouraging the sharing of knowledge and expertise between the military and civilian domains. This can lead to new, more efficient, sustainable and citizen-centric mobility solutions.

For example, innovative solutions and means must be developed for the strategic transport of outsize cargoes. Those solution could permit the development of new business models and creation of new markets that should benefit to both worlds.

Furthermore, collaboration between the military and civilian sectors can contribute to enhancing the **resilience** of transportation systems against emerging challenges and threats, whether related to security, cybersecurity, or natural disasters. By working together, both sectors can better anticipate and respond to crises, ensuring the continuity of essential transportation services for citizens. CER, NIS2 and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) directives are other good examples: by reinforcing the (cyber) resilience of entities against all sort of threats and hazards, they force investment that benefits not only to the governments but also the society and the entities themselves. Because we all know that the transport sector is one of the most targeted by (cyber)attacks.

In summary, dual military-civilian mobility offers **tangible benefits** for the development of future citizen mobility by promoting innovation, strengthening resilience, and harnessing synergies between the military and civilian sectors to enhance transportation systems.

Within this esteemed group of civil and defence experts, I believe it is our role as representatives of the civil mobility sector to put the spotlight on these civil advantages of investments in transport infrastructure. The last two days this is exactly what you have done here in Ghent during this event on Dual Military Mobility. We have to continue on this way in the future. Thank you therefore.

I now give the floor to Admiral Michel Hofman.