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**THE CCS GLOBAL GROUP**

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**ISO Roundtable on Global Harmonization of Regulations, Codes  
and Standards for Gaseous Fuels and Vehicles**

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*This is CCS' report on the ISO Roundtable  
which has already been circulated to members of ISO/TC 197*

On 10 January 2007, the *International Organization for Standardization (ISO)* hosted the *ISO Roundtable on Global Harmonization of Regulations, Codes and Standards for Gaseous Fuels and Vehicles*.

The objectives of this Roundtable were as follows:

- To identify harmonization issues and needs in terms of regulations, codes and standards (RCS),
- To review the challenges and barriers facing global harmonization,
- To identify potential pathways to achieve coherent and effective global harmonization of RCS for gaseous fuels and vehicles.

The event was attended by over 70 delegates from industry, research and government mainly interested in gaseous fuels and vehicles.

In the morning, a number of presentations were given showing the perspective of stakeholders from the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) – Transport and Sustainable Energy Divisions, the automotive industry, fuel suppliers and builders of gaseous fuel infrastructures.

All presentations can be seen at the following URL, including the presentation, which provides the highlights of a survey that was conducted by CCS to reflect the user perspectives and feedback in the field of hydrogen:

[http://www.iso.org/iso/events\\_roundtable.htm](http://www.iso.org/iso/events_roundtable.htm)

In the afternoon two groups were formed; one to discuss the automotive point of view and the other to discuss issues related to infrastructure. The following recommendations were drawn based on the input received throughout the day as well as the results of the CCS survey on user perspectives and feedback in the field of hydrogen. This report focuses on the recommendations that apply to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

**Recommendations**

Policy and Public/private investment front

Considerable efforts are being made in the automotive, energy and infrastructure sectors to bring hydrogen and related technologies to the market. The ISO Roundtable has demonstrated that these industry efforts should be supported by long-term environmental and energy security policies from the governments to help the deployment of these technologies on a large scale.

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## RCS front

On the RCS front, the ISO Roundtable and CCS survey have shown that globally harmonized RCS are a must for commercialization of hydrogen and related technologies. Globally relevant

RCS are needed; they should be performance-based to avoid inhibiting innovation and to cope with the differences in the needs of developed and developing countries.

The need for strengthening the link between standardization and regulatory authorities has been highlighted during the ISO Roundtable. It was felt that better cooperation would lead to increased use of standards by the regulatory authorities.

Moreover, it was recommended that UN global regulations should be developed for hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles and related infrastructure. The UN/ECE Transport Division was encouraged to pursue the development of Global Technical Regulations on hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles under the auspices of the World Forum for harmonization of vehicle regulations (WP.29). The UN/ECE Sustainable Energy Division was identified as the lead organization that could take on the challenge for the infrastructure side. To ensure coherence between the UN global regulations and the international standards, it was recommended that the UN global regulations refer to the relevant ISO and IEC standards.

To avoid the proliferation of national standards that differ from one country to the other, it was recommended that countries should be encouraged to use or adopt ISO standards. Further to avoid duplication of work, national Standards Development Organizations (SDO) should be encouraged to submit their work to ISO to fast track the standards development process, where required.

Finally, it was recognized that the business-as-usual trends in RCS development would most likely not produce globally harmonized RCS within the necessary timeframes. It was therefore recommended that an Independent Global Harmonization Body (IGHB) should be created to facilitate communication and cooperation among the existing players: UN regulators, ISO, IEC, national SDOs, and national regulators. The first task of the IGHB would be to help put in place the above recommendations in a timely and orderly fashion.

*Should you wish to have additional information, please contact:*

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