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Editorial



By Jean-Pierre Médevielle
ECTRI Secretary

Exactly five years ago, INRETS sent a letter of invitation to 15 European Transport Research Institutes or Universities to tackle with the building of the surface transport European research area through the creation of a European forum. We received the full support of the European Commission especially from Pr Busquin.

At that moment it was not clear that surface transport research should be considered in the preparation of the 6FRDP. So we were invited to participate strongly to the June 2002 Valencia EC Conference where we were asked with EARPA and FEHRL to set up specific sessions or events. While preparing our by laws and the first scheme of what become our first JPA, we pushed our senior scientists to look after the new instruments of the FP6 the NoEs and IPs and to prepare expressions of interest in partnership or not with other surface transport research stakeholders.

Deliberately we chose not only to tackle with excellence and relevance on the content side but also to tackle with excellence on the process research production side; and the "cherry on the cake" the

preparation of the next generation of scientists or transport focused related sciences.

So when incorporated the European Conference of Transport Research Institutes, with a very balanced and proactive elected Board made of visionary personalities from various European transport scientific cultures of interests competencies, we went directly to the implementation of a very comprehensive Joint Programme of Activities with strong deliverables and milestones met:

- open answers to the calls for proposals of FP6,

- the setting up of a very multicultural scheme of education and training of young researchers through a cycle of seminars that have been openly enlarged to FERSI and later to FEHRL,

- the strong participation to the famous model of consortium agreement for NoE 'UNECA' and to 3 NoEs HUMANIST, APSN and EURNEX,

- our strategic paper in 2003, - our inputs for FP7 (in 2004), the 4 FP7 specific programmes in 2005, work programmes in 2006,

- our strong involvement in ERTRAC and ERRAC technology platforms and eSafety Forum,

- a presentation made to the OECD-ECMT JTRC,

- our regular meetings with EC services and Directorates,

- our participation to European and International conferences (TRB, ETC, TRA, ITS, WCTR...) including the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the TRB of the American National Academies at the beginning of 2006,

- our meeting with Viviane Reding' Cabinet and Commissioner Potočník in 2005.

Besides that, the Secretariat has regular contacts with FEHRL, FERSI, EARPA, ERTICO and EUCAR Secretariats or staff, the list of European projects with involvement of ECTRI members is eloquent, and the membership increased notably with our Eastern or Western Balkan Countries colleagues.

This is to say that a lot of activities and work have been carried out in a short period, with a high standard at European and international level. This notoriety based on a very structured background is a terrific asset for the future and especially for the next generation of scientists from academy or industry but also for many other stakeholders. Continuing to participate to the creation in an open minded manner of the European supply side of the Surface Transport Research Area useful to all the transport research stakeholders (industry, regulators, operators,...) is clearly our vision, direction and ambition.

It is our manner to commemorate the day of Europe.

Last Assembly meeting in Torino, Italy

The last ECTRI Assembly meeting was held on 6 and 7 April 2006 in Torino, Italy and was hosted by Politecnico di Torino.

During this meeting, some important decisions have been taken. The ECTRI accounts for 2005 as well as the Auditor reports have been approved by the Assembly as well as the

Activities Report for 2005 and the ECTRI inputs for 7FRDP workplans.

The Assembly welcomed CEDEX, Centro de Estudios y experimentación de obras públicas as new member representing Spain and its official representative: Mr. Angel Aparicio Mourelo, General

Director. Moreover, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Uwe Clausen, Chairman of the Fraunhofer Transport Alliance (FhG-FVV) and Director of Fraunhofer Institute for Material flow and Logistics (FhG-IML), has been introduced as representative of FhG-FVV in ECTRI.

i2010 Intelligent Car Launching Event



The i2010 Intelligent Car Launching event was held on 23 February at the Autoworld Museum in Brussels and was hosted by Viviane Reding, EU Commissioner for Information Society and Media.

This event featured 28 vehicles that demonstrated the progress

made by European research in the field of safer and cleaner car technologies.

The i2010 Intelligent Car Initiative is built on three pillars: the work done in the framework of the eSafety initiative, the results of "ICT for road safety" research projects co-financed by the European Union and activities raising the awareness of road users of Intelligent Safety Systems.

The launch event at the Autoworld Museum was the first action under the pillar of awareness-raising activities.

This event was launched by Commissioner Viviane Reding.

Both the ECTRI President, Prof. George Giannopoulos from HIT and the ECTRI Secretary, Mr. Jean-Pierre Médevielle from INRETS were present at this event.

Focus on events

ECTRI Working Group 4 workshop on Soft Research Infrastructures



The ECTRI WG4 preparing the workshop

The ECTRI Working Group 4 on Soft Research Infrastructures organized on May 10th in collaboration with the ECTRI Secretariat a one-day workshop to demonstrate the functioning

of the web-based database on ECTRI Soft Research Infrastructures, implemented by the Working Group over the last two years.

About 25 people from the ECTRI institutes participated to this "Initial User Training Workshop" that was very fruitful.



Workshop participants

Actualities

↳ The European Technology Platforms Conference was held on last 4 and 5 May 2006 in Vienna, Austria and was hosted by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), on behalf of Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour of the Republic of Austria and in conjunction with the European Commission. During this conference, 500 attendants from 30 countries met to look after the current situation and the future of the 29 existing European Technol-

ogy Platforms. The ECTRI Secretary was invited as a member of the ERTRAC Steering Group.

↳ The Secretary made a presentation during the "Mobility in road safety" meeting held in Brussels on May 16th 2006. This presentation was on the "Intelligent Vehicle Safety Systems and 2010 EU target in road safety". People from the European Commission, the European Parliament, ACEA, ERTICO

as well as national and regional representatives to European Union attended this event.

↳ A doctorant of ECTRI—INRETS, Alki Berri received the Friedrich List 2006 Award for his thesis. His award will be given to him during the 5th European Congress on Transport that will be held from 1st to 4th June in Brno, Czech Republic and is granted by the European Platform of Transport Sciences.

Actualities



AVV- Transport Research Centre



The AVV Transport Research Centre is one of the specialist services of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management in the Netherlands. AVV works for the Ministry and other governmental bodies active in the field of traffic and transport.

The AVV, Transport Research Centre (part of the Rijkswaterstaat organisation) makes an active contribution to improving the Dutch transport system by supplying knowledge for the formulation and implementation of Dutch transport policy.

The AVV's task is to enable safe transport on Dutch roads, rails and waterways for as many people and as much freight as possible, but with a minimum of damage to the environment and living conditions. The AVV does this as part of the Directorate-General of Public Works and Water Management of the Ministry of

Transport, Public Works and Water Management, and is an integral part of the Dutch research infrastructure.

AVV is actively engaged in research in the following areas: passenger transport; freight transport; road safety; shipping; aviation; regional planning; economics; governance; behaviour; traffic technology; use, management and maintenance of infrastructure; dynamic traffic management; traffic control centres; intelligent vehicles and infrastructure; transport technology; analytical models; monitoring, registration of accidents and techniques for gathering information. All these fields are brought together within the three main AVV departments. The AVV is also the preferred intermediary between customers and other parties involved in transport policy, nationally as well as internationally.

As a research centre, the AVV is in contact with consultants and other parties that play a role in the transport field, such as provinces, municipalities, urban areas and the National Police Agency (KLPD).

The AVV acts as an intermediary between demand and supply of knowledge. We translate questions that arise at any time in the policy cycle into practical research questions. We answer those questions ourselves, or ask specialised commercial companies or research institutes to answer them for us. In that case, we will supervise the research and add valuable information to it. In this sense, our work is not a one way road from the party that orders to the party that delivers. For instance, we will anticipate our customers' questions and translate international scientific knowledge proactively into advice and answers.

Presentation of our members

UPM—Universidad Politecnica de Madrid



UPM (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid) is the leading teaching and research institution in Spain in technical areas. It is composed of 22 Faculties of Engineering some of which have been founded in the XIX century and therefore are the oldest and most active within Spain.

UPM activities on transport research and development cover the following objectives :

- To perform high quality technological research and development in the transport field.
- To contribute to the improvement of the transport system from all different viewpoints (social, economic and technical).
- To contribute to the dissemination of the achievements in the transport field by means of the transport research and its positive effects for the imple-

mentation of sustainable development.

- To develop instruments and models to predict future conditions in the transport field and evaluate its effects.

The UPM transport research activities are organised in different groups, covering the following general thematic areas:

- Transport Economics and Planning The **Centre for Transport Research (TRANSYT)** is a multidisciplinary group settle at the Civil Engineering Faculty. It integrates also researchers from the Environment Engineering Faculty, and receives support from the Regional and National Transport Ministries
- Communications and Signal Processing **Telecommunications Engineering Faculty**. This group covers two research topics: methods and applications

of *Digital Image Processing*, mainly for compression and analysis, *Signal Transmission and Telecommunications*; and secondly *Telematic System Engineering*

- Vehicle design and safety. This area is developed by two Research centers related to Mechanical Engineering Faculty: **Centro de Investigación en Tecnologías Ferroviarias (CITEF)** pursuing aims of general interest related to any railway area, while **Instituto Universitario de Investigación del Automóvil (INSIA)** is related with car safety.

More information can be found at the following address:
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NET-TRACK News

The NET-TRACK Workshop on Research Management will be held on next June 22nd and 23rd in Budapest, Hungary at the hotel Mercure Budapest Metropol.

The final programme of the workshop is about to be sent to the targeted institutes and persons in New Member States, Accessing Countries and Western Balkan Countries.

The workshop will raise some questions regarding :

- The organization of research management in a research institute,
- The funding of research,
- The scientific moderation of a re-

search institute,

- The value given to research,
- The characteristics of European framework programmes for research,
- The preparation and participation to European research projects,
- The life of a European project.

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Events

Nominations



↪ Mrs Cristina Pronello from POLITO, current ECTRI Treasurer, has been elected on 17th May President of the COST Transport and Urban Development (TUD) Committee.

↪ The ECTRI assistant, Lucile Murier will be on leave for a 5 month period from mid-June to mid-November 2006 and will be replaced during this period by Mrs Marie-Françoise Sherratt-Roux (e-mail: marie-francoise.sherratt-roux@ectri.org).

Next Events / News

- Next international events where ECTRI will be represented
 - > **Transport Research Arena**, Göteborg, Sweden, 12 to 16 June 2006
 - > **European Transport Conference**, Strasbourg, France, 18 to 20 September 2006
 - > **ITS World Congress 2006**, London, 8 to 12 October 2006

You can find information about ECTRI on the ECTRI booths present on these exhibitions.
- Next Assembly meetings
 - > Helsinki, Finland, 20 & 21 November 2006
- Next Board meetings
 - > Brussels, Belgium, 7 June 2006
 - > Helsinki, Finland, 20 & 21 November 2006