

Table of contents:

- Editorial
- Focus on events
- Presentation of Members
- Actualities
- NET-TRACK News
- Next events / news



By
**Cristina
Pronello**

Professor, responsible for Transport Group at Politecnico di Torino

ECTRI Treasurer

The European Commission adopted on June 22nd the orientation paper for the future EU transport policy: "Keep Europe moving - Sustainable mobility for our continent" which is a mid-term review of the 2001 Transport White Paper.

The objectives of EU transport policy, since the transport White Paper of 1992 through the White Paper of 2001 until this recent Communication, remain valid. The challenge is to provide Europeans with efficient, effective transportation systems that:

- offer a high level of mobility to people and businesses throughout the Union;
- protect the environment, ensure energy security, promote minimum labour standards for the sector and protect the passenger and the citizen;
- innovate in support of the first two aims of mobility and protection by increasing the efficiency and sustainability of the growing transport sector;
- connect internationally, projecting the Union's policies to reinforce sustainable mobility, protection and innovation.

Editorial

Mobility is essential for Europe's prosperity and for free movement of citizens, but we are well acknowledged that the negative impact of mobility in terms of energy use and environmental quality must be reduced.

What is ECTRI doing to help in complying with these objectives ?

Broadly speaking, ECTRI has been very active, since the beginning, within and outside the research arena, the participation to the EU debate and the preparation of the next Framework Programme. The major effort has been to more effectively deal with the "transport problem", proposing the vision of new researchers profiles and an innovating scientific approach in solving the problems. Moreover, our major care was devoted to understand which is the best way of preparing the next generation of researchers who should be open minded and grow in a multicultural and multidisciplinary environment.

The practical and specific initiatives we have taken to support the EU policy are well described in the previous newsletters, thus I would like to put the focus on two very recent activities devoted to spur a high quality research: the international journal and the programme for the training of the new generation of researchers.

ECTRI is launching an international *open-access scholarly journal*, focusing on transport research issues of relevant interest from a European perspective. This ambitious project aims at establishing a highly qualified scientific communication channel among research communities, decision makers

and practitioners both within and outside Europe, achieving the international standards of excellence of the best scholarly journal in the transport field.

The launching of the journal is expected to take place in 2007, and start-up activities are ongoing.

ECTRI is interested in all Specific Programme of the 7th FRDP (COOPERATION and IDEAS) but has also some specific ambitious regarding the PEOPLE programme and notably researchers training. As coordinator of the ECTRI Working Group 2 – Mobility and Training – I feel we have two important objectives to reach that could be the key for solving the "transport problem" and to really support the EU transport policy.

The *primary objective* is to provide high quality education for Ph.D. students from EU countries, Candidate and Associate States through the organization of an "ad hoc" training programme focused to the following main points:

- the acquisition of the needed elements from the basic disciplines such as mathematics to tackle the complexity and try to manage a complex system;
- the acquisition of a specific and high level knowledge through specialist courses at doctoral level on the topics covered by the transport disciplines;
- the acquisition of experience in managing a project, working in team and integrating the knowledge through specialist courses (theory and practice);
- the learning to manage a discussion where there are

several and contrasting point of views, to solve the conflicts and find good compromise solutions;

- the acquisition of the experience in communication and the capacity to dialogue with the stakeholders to understand their point of view, translating it in a problem to solve.

The *secondary objective* is to allow the access to training and the use of equipment and facilities at the universities and research centres forming ECTRI. This will also allow to meet other European scientists, for future contacts and networking.

Our association forms a network that has already learned from some previous experience and joint researches and it has a great potential as a favourable milieu in which the early-stage researchers (ESR) can grow and acquire experience. The Young Researchers Seminar organized by ECTRI every two years is one of the successful examples.

We are moving fast and the success of our activities shows the force of the "PEOPLE" who have made ECTRI what it is now: an organization including 21 top institutes and universities striving to give an effective contribution to the progress of

the European research in the field of transport. Ideas, flair, creativity, looking at the horizon trying to go beyond the line ... and, to learn to work together should be the ingredients of our common activity. I feel this would be the ideal humus where the next generation of researchers can grow and obtain important scientific successes.

I would like to conclude with a sentence from Gandhi that is my wish for myself and for everybody: "Live as you should to die tomorrow. Learn as you should to live forever".

Transport Research Arena Conference Gothenburg, Sweden –12th to 15th June 2006



ECTRI booth

The Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2006 Conference took place in Gothenburg,

Sweden, from 12th to 15th June 2006 on the theme "Cleaner, safer and smarter road transport for Europe".

It focussed on the implementation of the European Research Area in support of a sustainable, more efficient and safer road transport system in Europe. The event was organised jointly by the European Commission, the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC), and the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR).

Our booth was successfully manned by Tarja Magnusson

from the VTI Institute in Sweden.

ECTRI's President, **Georgios GIANNOPOULOS**, made a presentation on "Vision for the Future" within the plenary session 3 held on June 13th entitled "Road Transport Contributing to a Sustainable Society"

Claudia NOBIS from DLR, Germany, made a presentation on "The URBAMOVE Project" (ECTRI) in the session called "Integrated Mobility Management, part 1".

These presentations are downloadable on the ECTRI website, section "documents".

European Transport Conference Strasbourg, France –18th to 20th September 2006

The European Transport Conference (ETC) took place in Strasbourg, France, on 18th-20th September 2006. ECTRI had booked a stand which was manned by Customer Manager Mikko Malmivuo from the VTT Institute in Finland, again as a contribution in kind towards our association.

There were 388 participants. The opening plenary session was given by Zoltán Kazatsay,

Deputy General Director, DG TREN of the European Commission. Daily plenary sessions were followed by seminars, which were grouped into two major strands:

- Transport Policy and Operations,
- Research to improve Decision-Making in Transport.



ECTRI booth



Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegast-Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek TNO



Presentation of our members

As an independent organisation, TNO turns knowledge into practical applications and so contributes to the innovative capacity of business, both at home and abroad, as well as social and international organisations. TNO has a broad package of products and services, from advising on policy, products and services and performing contract research to the testing and evaluation of products and systems and certification according to international standards.

The expertise of the more than 4,700 TNO employees has been brought under five core areas:

- TNO Quality of Life
- TNO Defence, Security and Safety
- TNO Science and Industry
- TNO Built Environment and Geosciences
- TNO Information and Communication Technology

Traffic and Transport at TNO: unique, integrated expertise for more efficient, safer, cleaner traffic.

In the field of Traffic and Transport TNO combines expertise in vehicle engineering, broad experience of ICT applications and knowledge of driver behaviour and the traffic system. All this within a social context where quality of life and pressure for space are issues. The relevant expertise and experience of some 400 TNO fellow professionals throughout the organisation enables us to provide the right kind of advice and deliver clever products that integrate elements of policy, behaviour and technology.

TNO works in 5 core areas:

- Mobility and Infrastructure
- Intelligent Transport Systems
- Mobility and Environment
- Transport Safety

- Intercompany Logistics

TNO is a key player in an expanding international network of leading technology institutes, companies with ambitious development profiles, universities and other partners in knowledge development. These network partners constantly stimulate us to make progress.

In relation to the rapid and broad development of science and engineering as well as the global character of every kind of knowledge and product flow, TNO collaborates closely with universities and knowledge centres at home and abroad and with the research departments of large companies. Traffic and Transport is also member of ERTICO and EARPA.

You will find a lot more information about our expertise in international projects on www.tno.nl/trafficandtransport (incl. brochures).

Centro de Estudios y Experimentación de Obras Públicas

CEDEX



CEDEX is an Autonomous Entity organically belonging to the Spanish Ministry of Public Works, whose functional purpose is the provision of high-level civil engineering support to the Ministries of Public Works and Environment. It also provides services to other Spanish administrations and the private sector in the areas of construction and civil engineering, including transport and its environmentally-related matters.

Approximately 70% of its engineering activity involves technical assistance, whereas the remaining 30% is given over to applied research, technological development, innovation, transfer of knowledge and international cooperation.

CEDEX is structured in seven Centres and Laboratories: Transport, Ports and Coasts, Inland Waters, Structures and Materials, Geotechnics, Techniques Applied to Engineering and Environment, and Historical Studies concerning Public Works, such as the *Laboratorio Nacional de Engenharia Civil* (LNEC, Portugal), the *Laboratoire Central des Ponts et Chaussées* (LCPC, France) and the *Deutsches*

Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR, Germany). Furthermore, CEDEX also plays an active role in a variety of non-European civil engineering research networks such as *Red de Institutos Nacionales Iberoamericanos de Ingeniería de Investigación Hidráulica*.

In particular, the Transport Research Centre of CEDEX was created in 2005 as the merging result of the existing Road Research Centre and Railway Interoperability Laboratory, and the new Transport Planning Area of CEDEX.

In the field of roads, the Transport Research Centre is active on research and testing of pavement materials, full scale pavement tests, road surface characteristics, noise reduction, pavement design and rehabilitation, traffic engineering and road safety, and road standardization. With regard to rail, CEDEX activities focus on interoperability and signalling issues, railways safety and railways infrastructure. The transport planning area compiles activities within urban mobility, transport model-

ling and transport and environment monitoring.

The Transport Research Centre represents the Spanish State Administration in a range of networks and committees. At a national level, the Centre is an active member in *Asociación Técnica de Carreteras* (Road Technical Association), *Asociación Española de la Carretera* (Spanish Road Association), *Plataforma Tecnológica Ferroviaria Española* (Spanish Railways Technological Platform) and *Asociación Española de Normalización y Certificación* (Spanish Association of Standardisation and Certification). On the international side, the Centre participates not only in ECTRI but also in the Forum of European Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL), the OCDE Road and Intermodal Transport R&TD Programme and the European Platform on Mobility Management (EPOMM), amongst others. As the Spanish R&D leading institution in the civil engineering sector, CEDEX has also established close ties with other similar entities from several European and non European countries.



↳ The Secretary presented a Status Report of the Action Plan 2006-2007 of the TRB-ECTRI Memorandum of Understanding in La Jolla, California, on the 10th of July 2006 on the occasion of the TRB International Activities Committee meeting.

↳ 7th FRDP: ECTRI delivered an input/addendum to the Surface and Satellite Transport Research issues. It was sent to the European Commission at the beginning of July.

↳ ECTRI is participating in the DESCA team in charge of

setting up a simplified FP7 model Consortium Agreement.

↳ Young Researchers Seminar 2007 launching: the next Young Researchers Seminar organised jointly by ECTRI, FERSI and FEHRL organisations will be held in Brno, Czech Republic, on 28-30 May 2007. An invitation to nominate young researchers and tutors was sent in August 2006.

↳ Jean-Pierre Médevielle, ECTRI's Secretary General, is participating in the RTD working group of eSafety which is

preparing a document "Stakeholders' contribution" to the formation of the FP7 programme on ICT for Road Transport.

↳ Jean-Pierre Médevielle has been appointed as ECTRI and ERTRAC representative to the Programme Committee of TRA 2008 which will take place in Ljubjana, Slovenia.

↳ Georges Giannopoulos, ECTRI's President, has been nominated member of the Transport Advisory Group.



NET-TRACK* News

The main objective of NET-TRACK is to contribute to the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of surface transport by involving leading research Institutes of New Member States (NMS), Acceding Countries (AC) and Western Balkan Countries (WBC) in current European research efforts.

The NET-TRACK workshop on Research Management took place on 22nd & 23rd June 2006 in Budapest, Hungary. The objectives of this workshop were to learn from each

other's research management skills and traditions, to exchange and transfer experiences in the field of programme and project management. The 25 participants attending were Executive Officers, Programme Managers, Senior Researchers from New Member States, Acceding Countries and Western Balkan Countries Institutes, specialized in transportation.

The partners are now working on the organisation of the second workshop on "Soft Research Infrastructures" which is scheduled in March

2007. The kick-off meeting will be held in Brno, Czech Republic, on 16th October 2006.

More information at : www.ectri.org/nettrack

Contact person :
Caroline Alméras, Project Manager
caroline.almeras@ectri.org

* NET-TRACK is a project financed by the European Commission under the 6th FRDP.



Workshop on research management
22 and 23 June 2006, Budapest
Guy Bourgeois, INRETS, Chair of the first Day Sessions



Workshop on research management
22 and 23 June 2006, Budapest
Presentation, by Josef Palfalvi, KTI, Hungary



Workshop on research management
22 and 23 June 2006, Budapest
Dinner

European Conference of
Transport Research
Institutes—ECTRI

c/o INRETS
Case 24
25 avenue François Mitterrand

Tel : + 33 (0) 4 72 14 23 15
Fax : + 33 (0) 4 72 14 23 07
Email : lucile.murier@ectri.org
<http://www.ectri.org>

Concept and editing:
Jean-Pierre Médevielle
Caroline Alméras
Marie-Françoise Sherratt-Roux
Design and layout :
Lucile Murier
Editor :
Jean-Pierre Médevielle

Next Events / News

- Next Assembly meetings
 - > Helsinki, Finland, 20th and 21st November 2006
 - > Berlin, Germany, 29th and 30th March 2007
- Next Board meetings
 - > Helsinki, Finland, 20th and 21st November 2006
 - > Brussels, Belgium, 11th January 2007