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By George Giannopoulos  
HIT, ECTRI President

**Statement by the Chairman  
of ECTRI**

**T**his Newsletter marks the end of the first 4 years of ECTRI's official existence. It also marks the end of my second term in office as President of ECTRI.

In these 4 years we have seen many important events and changes occurring in European Transport Research, which made ECTRI's creation necessary in the first place, and I believe that we are all now better placed to face these changes as a result of ECTRI. Looking back, as one inevitably feels compelled to do in such occasions, I can see many things that have been achieved, but also many more issues and objectives that have been set for the coming years.

For ECTRI itself, perhaps the most important issue of all was the need to maintain the upward trend in order to establish its position as a body of excellence in European Transport Research. Among the most important achievements of the past 4 years, one could mention the:

- Almost universal, now,

## Editorial

recognition of ECTRI as the leading "player" in European Transport Research. ECTRI enjoys full recognition among its peers both in Europe and the world.

- Excellent relations and cooperation with the EU Commission services and regular contacts with the top levels of decision making there, including the Commissioners for Research, Information Society and Media, and Transport.

- Increased cooperation, systematic and open exchanges with other European Organizations in our field, such as with FEHRL, FERSI, EARPA, and the European Technology Platforms: ERTRAC, EIRAC, and ERRAC.

- Most visible presence in all major European Transport Conferences most notably the ETC and the TRA Conferences.

- Development of closer links and cooperation with our US colleagues, first through regular participation in the International Transport Committee of the US/TRB, and then by signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation with the US/TRB.

- Development and execution of a 10 points, 2-year Activity Plan to implement specific actions to increase cooperation with the US transport research community (within the auspices of the ECTRI/TRB MoU).

- Successful participation of our members in many important EU research pro-

jects (so far of the 6<sup>th</sup> FP and COST actions).

- Many contributions that ECTRI has made in the formulation of the relevant EU transport research and transport policy documents, and its impact on the final shape of these documents.

I am truly proud of these achievements and I wish, from this position too, to thank all those members of ECTRI who contributed, but above all the ECTRI Secretariat and its Secretary, Mr Jean-Pierre Medevielle, during these 4 years for making all this possible.

Now ECTRI is entering a new period in its life. A period that will be characterized not so much by growth in terms of new activities but by more consolidation and establishment of the opportunities and initiatives of the past.

Our current 3-year Activity Plan speaks for itself. It contains an ambitious list of items that need our devoted attention in order to materialize and bear fruit for all of us. Many new Committees and Task Forces are being formed, new Working Groups activated, and much more "in kind contribution" is expected from our members. The items, in our Activity Plan, are the best evidence of this and also an indication of the great potential of our Association for the future.

I am confident that ECTRI will meet the challenges of the future in the best possible way, and will become a cornerstone of the ERA in the Transport field. In part, this

confidence is based on the dynamism and qualities of the new ECTRI Board and its President Guy Bourgeois who were elected in the last Assembly meeting in Helsinki on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. I know how com-

mitted they all are, and I wish them the best of success in their difficult task ahead.

I am indeed grateful for the chance all members of ECTRI gave me, by voting me twice as

their President, to serve during these challenging times and of course, I pledge myself to continue to work for achieving the ECTRI's vision of the future of European Transport Research.

## Last Assembly meeting in Helsinki, Finland



*The Assembly of members at VTT*

The last Assembly of Members was held on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> November 2006 at VTT in Finland.

A number of important items were included in the Agenda: the approval of amended 2006 and draft 2007 budgets, the priority actions for the next year and the definition of the

level of involvement of members in the actions, the launching of an electronic European Transport Journal in open access, the progresses of ECTRI/TRB action plan and the election of a new Board.

Regarding the priority actions points, the FP7 has been ranked as main priority. With this view, a Task Force and thematic Working Groups will be created to help in the consortium building and project preparation.

Regarding the ECTRI Journal project, the editorial and advisory Boards are about to be set up. The call for tender for the choice of an Editor will be

launched in January 2007.

At last, a new Board has been elected for a two-year mandate; it is composed of:

- Guy Bourgeois from INRETS as President
- Josef Mikulik from CDV as Vice-President
- Cristina Pronello from POLITO as Treasurer
- Dietmar Wurzel from DLR as Secretary
- Hans Jeekel from AVV, Lasse Fridstrøm from TØI and Niels Buus Kristensen from DTF as members.

This Board will enter into duty on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

## ITS World Congress 2006

### London, United Kingdom—8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October



*ECTRI Booth*

The 13<sup>th</sup> World Congress and Exhibition on Intelligent Transport Systems and Services was held at ExCeL London on 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2006.

There were 270 exhibitors; 8,000 delegates/visitors from 75 different countries attended. Issues ranged from technical and technological aspects to implementation experiences as

well as economic, organisational and societal aspects of ITS. There were Plenary Round Tables and different sessions: European Commission, Strategy, Technical, a Discussion Corner and Technical Visits.

ECTRI hired a booth, manned by people from the TRL institute, where a number of brochures and information were available.

## 17<sup>th</sup> International OECD/ECMT Symposium

### Berlin, Germany—25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> October

The Symposium on Transport Economics and Policy, organised every three years, was held in Berlin on 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October 2006. The focus was on issues associated with globalization, mobilization and transport. It brought together government representatives, high-ranking officials and experts from universities, research institutes, consultancy services, transport stakeholders and international organisations. The opening remarks were made by the Ger-

man Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee, followed by six sessions and plenary discussions.

The OECD/ECMT invited ECTRI to have a stand. Angelika Schulz from the DLR Institute in Germany was present on the booth where she provided and

disseminated information and brochures on ECTRI.



*From left to right: Angelika Schulz, DLR, Jean-Pierre Médevielle, INRETS, ECTRI Secretary Cristina Pronello, POLITO, ECTRI Treasurer on the ECTRI booth.*



*The German Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee, visiting the ECTRI booth.*

## Actualities

↳ The Network of Excellence HUMANIST will organise a tutorial on Safety and Design of New Transport Technologies on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007 at INRETS Lyon-Bron centre. The programme will consist of lectures and practical exercises. More information on this tutorial can be found on the website: [www.noehumanist.net](http://www.noehumanist.net).

↳ Young Researchers Seminar 2007: the Steering Committee meeting was held in Brno, Czech Republic on November 16<sup>th</sup>. About 22 Institutes responded to the call for papers and tutors, resulting in 55 applicants and 18 tutors being nominated. This meeting aimed at selecting the papers and organising the different sessions. Information will be regularly updated on the website: [www.ectri.org/yrs07.htm](http://www.ectri.org/yrs07.htm)

↳ The 8<sup>th</sup> Working Group 4 meeting took place on 17<sup>th</sup> October at CDV in Brno, Czech Republic. The aim of this meeting was to discuss the current status of the web based database of ECTRI Soft Research Infrastructures and the perspectives of future Working Group 4 activities.

↳ Jean-Pierre Médevielle, ECTRI Secretary, attended the FEAST Conference-Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation organised by the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006. More information on [www.feast.org](http://www.feast.org)

↳ Further to the invitation of the ERTRAC Secretary General Rainer Aust, a great number of ECTRI experts were present at the ERTRAC workshops organised on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in Brussels on "Sustainable Road Transport in Europe : move from Strategic Research Agenda to Roadmap". The aim of this workshop was to discuss new ideas for the Research Framework activities and to develop road maps for implementation.

More information can be found on the ERTRAC website: [www.etrac.org](http://www.etrac.org).

↳ The Calls for proposals under the provisional work programmes of the 7FRDP have been published in the Official Journal of the European Union in the issue C 316 of December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. You can find this

information on: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/>.

All transport-related issues calls are in the COOPERATION programme as well as ERC and Marie Curie. The Regions of Knowledge can be found in the CAPACITIES programme.

Full details of the Calls can be found at : <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm>

↳ TNO organizes a Symposium entitled "Cooperative vehicle infrastructure systems: an intelligent way forward?" on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2007. During this Symposium the various stakeholders will be giving their views on the development of cooperative systems at a plenary session. In the afternoon there will be (real world) demonstrations of cooperative systems and presentations of a variety of (European) projects that focus on the development, evaluation and implementation of such systems. This symposium will also give TNO the opportunity to demonstrate its SUMMITS Tool Suite that is able to test cooperative systems at various stages of their development. For more information please contact Johanne Steenbergen at [johanne.steenbergen@tno.nl](mailto:johanne.steenbergen@tno.nl)

## Výskumný Ústav Dopravný, a.s. VÚD, a.s.



VÚD, a.s. - The Transport Research Institute, Inc., in its 50-year history, has fulfilled national demands related to national transport policy making and implementation.

Originally established under the name "Transport Scientific and Research Institute" in Prague in 1954, it was renamed in 1956. In 1972 the VÚD management moved from the capital Prague to Žilina in North of Slovakia. At dividing the former Czechoslovak Republic, it split into CDV in Brno, Czech Republic and VÚD in Žilina, Slovakia.

After the transformation process in research and development in 2002, it became private from state owned

company.

VÚD with its 100 employees answers the transport issues in the field of engineering and technology, operation, economy, legislation, management and organization, informatics and automation, ecology, power system, transport infrastructure safety and quality, transport services and tourism management, transport policy, certification and testing in transport. It is the main supplier of research and development in transport for Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunications in Slovakia.

The Institute owns three testing laboratories where various transport products and equipment are tested; it is European

Notified Body No. 1358 for pressure equipment, lifts, cableway installations, recreational craft and machinery products. It has a department for issuing certificates and assessment of conformity of construction products in transport and body for training the people in welding processes.

VÚD was awarded the STN EN ISO 9001-2000 Quality System Certificate in 1999. It has been the Slovakian member of ECTRI since 2005. It has also been member of FEHRL since 2005 and the ERTRAC expert group since 2006.

More information at : <http://www.vud.sk/>

## Presentation of our member



### European Conference of Transport Research Institutes—ECTRI

c/o INRETS  
Case 24  
25 avenue François Mitterrand  
69675 Bron cedex—France

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

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



The Mid-term project assessment meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> October in Brno, Czech Republic, at CDV headquarters.

At the same time, the consortium discussed the prepa-

ration of the next Workshop on 'Soft Research Infrastructures' which will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2007.

Regular information will be updated on the website:

[www.ectri.org/nettrack](http://www.ectri.org/nettrack)

Contact person :  
Caroline Alméras, Project Manager  
[caroline.almeras@ectri.org](mailto:caroline.almeras@ectri.org)

## EUROACCESS PROJECT

« For a European Accessibility of public Transport for people with disabilities »

ECTRI has favoured the preparation and is supporting the EUROACCESS project, a Specific Support Action (SSA) funded by the EC under the 6<sup>th</sup> FP.

The objective of this project is to contribute to the development of the EU policy on the accessibility of the trans-

port systems in the 27 member states, and 1 EFTA country, in order to promote social integration and active participation in society of people with disabilities.

This project will begin on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and will last 24 months with a budget of 425 000€

The consortium is composed of ERT, INRETS (Scientific Coordinator), CERTU, Ann Frye Ltd, Lunds University, TIS.pt and TØI.

Contact person:  
Claude Marin-Lamellet, INRETS  
[claude.marin-lamellet@inrets.fr](mailto:claude.marin-lamellet@inrets.fr)

## EURFORUM PROJECT

« European Research Forum for Urban Mobility »

ECTRI is involved with 6 other partners (UITP, (Coordinator), TUD, CERTU, ASSTRA, POLIS, EMTA) in the EURFORUM project, a Coordination Action funded by the EC under its 6<sup>th</sup>FP.

The objective of EURFORUM is to create a forum at the European level, effectively representing stakeholders of European research on urban mobility, including representatives of local authorities, public transport associations, research bodies, etc. It will focus on a better and more innovative coordination of research serving urban mobility of people and goods.

This forum will provide recommendations for the coord-

ination of European research on urban mobility issues in order to:

- help structure the supply side of European research in this field;

- pave the way to make Europe a real competitive global player in the field of urban mobility;

- reduce the overall cost of urban mobility;

- increase the attractiveness of public transport, walking and cycling, while encouraging a more rational use of motorised traffic.

EURFORUM covers all private and public transport modes and focusses both on technology-oriented and on policy-oriented research.

The project pays special attention to urban mobility challenges in the New Member States.

The first plenary meeting of EURFORUM will take place on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007 in Brussels. A number of invitations have been sent to stakeholders active in urban mobility sector. We additionally invite all interested people to register in the consultation opened on the EURFORUM website :

[www.eurforum.net](http://www.eurforum.net).

Contact persons :  
Caroline Alméras, ECTRI  
[caroline.almeras@ectri.org](mailto:caroline.almeras@ectri.org)  
Laurent Franckx, UITP (Coordinator)  
[laurent.franckx@uitp.com](mailto:laurent.franckx@uitp.com)

## Next Events / News

- Next international events where ECTRI will be represented
  - > TRB Annual Session, Washington, USA, 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007  
You can find information about ECTRI on the ECTRI booth present at the exhibition
  - > ECTRI/TRB International Research Roundtable, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2007, in conjunction with the Transportation Research Board's Annual Session in Washington. D.C.
- Next Assembly meeting
  - > Berlin, Germany, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March 2007
- Next Board meeting
  - > Brussels, Belgium, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2007