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Editorial

**By Josef Mikulik
Director of CDV**

On the 1st of May, 10 new countries have joined the European Union. I would like to take advantage of this historical event to talk to you about ECTRI contribution to it.

As the FRDP and COST transport, ECTRI had anticipated this enlargement and encouraged from its creation the Eastern integration in European Research Area by including Eastern Institutes among its members.

In fact, ECTRI which mainly aims at promoting integrated surface transport research and development

by common priorities and joint programme of work offers to its members and more specifically to Eastern Institutes a framework to accelerate their participation and their awareness on the European Transport Research.

For the moment, ECTRI have two official Eastern members, the CDV and the KTI that are respectively the main Czech and Hungarian research Institutes in the field of transport.

In order to go deeper into the collaboration with Eastern countries, ECTRI pursues its campaign in favour of this enlargement by scrutinizing the landscape of transport research in Acceding Coun-

tries and in Western Balkan Countries and strongly invites identified institutions from these countries to participate to its activities.

Thus this newsletter gives me the opportunity to underline the importance for new and next acceding countries Institutes to be included in this kind of structure in a short term in order to strengthen their integration in the European Research Area and to stimulate the transfer of knowledge and the dissemination of results between East and West within the new European Boundaries.

I am also pleased today to present through this newsletter our organisation as well as the Hungarian one.

Our last Assembly meeting in Brno

ECTRI last Assembly meeting took place in Brno on 4 and 5 March 2004.

Seven resolutions were adopted by the Assembly, concerning the approval of 2003 accounts, 2003 excess budget allocation, approval of the 2002-2003 activities report (that is now available for download on ECTRI Website : <http://www.ectri.org>), maintenance of the incorporation, approval of 2004 budget, suppression of working groups 1, 5 and 6 to have a better

legibility of ECTRI business and attribution of an award to the best presentation and the two accessits of 2003 Young Researchers Seminar.

Some important decisions were also taken concerning the new membership : Spain can have 2 members, for countries with a non complex surface transport research landscape, we accept the application of interested institutes, for countries with a



complex surface transport research landscape, interested organisations have to sign a M.o.U. and design a representative. The whole content of the decision is available in Brno meeting minutes.

EuroIndia, New Dehli

The EuroIndia Conference was held in New Dehli from 24 to 26 of March, under the initiative of the European Commission.

ECTRI was present on this Conference through a booth presenting our members, our activities and also the **Network of Excellence HUMANIST**.

As our President, Pr

Georgios Giannopoulos was not able to be present to chair his session,



he has been replaced by Dr Angelos Bekiaris, from HIT to chair the **Parallel Session A7 on Transport**

and Civil Risk.

Commissioner Liikanen was in Dehli and visited the exhibition on Thursday 25 March.

Some interesting contacts were made.

Most of the people who visited the exhibition were from Indian Software Industry

and some researchers were also interested in what is done in Europe.

Actualities

- 👉 We officially welcome a new member from Eastern Europe : **TU Belgrade** applied officially to become a member and has been accepted as Serbia & Montenegro ECTRI member.
- 👉 Our Secretary, required by Mr Claude Van Rooten from CRR (**Belgium**), attended to a meeting, chaired by CRR, with all interested Belgium Institutes and Universities, to present ECTRI in order to help Belgium, through a M.o.U., to be member of ECTRI.
- 👉 Our **new Website** is now online at the address : <http://www.ectri.org>
- 👉 On May 4, the **second ECTRI-FERSI-FEHL meeting** took place at FEHL headquarters in Brussels and was chaired by FERSI.
- 👉 ECTRI was present at Thessaloniki Organisation—operation—monitoring of Maritime and Intermodal Freight Transport : the European and Asian experience Conference and the Secretary had contact with the Economic Commission for Asia Pacific of United Nations.
- 👉 The action COST 352 **Influence of Modern In-vehicle Information Systems on Road Safety Requirements** has been signed and entered into force on January 29, 2004.
- 👉 **HUMANIST Kick off meeting** including the Assembly and Executive Committee will take place in Lyon-Bron from 9 to 11 March 2004.
- 👉 **APSN kick off meeting** took place in Brussels on **April 7th, 2004**
- 👉 **EUR²EX kick off meeting** took place in Berlin on **29 and 30 January 2004**, the first Council (Assembly) in Birmingham on **11 February**, and the first Executive Committee meeting in Lille on **16 January 2004**.
- 👉 **TRANSFORUM** : The Contract is signed with the EC.

Centrum Dopravního Výzkumu Czech Republic



The Transport Research Centre (Centrum Dopravního Výzkumu (CDV)) is a non profit company acting as a legal person under public law, whose registered office is at Líšeňská 33a, 63600 Brno, Czech Republic. The CDV as a Transport Research Centre has more than forty years long tradition of research and development. It has been appointed since 1 July, 1993 as the Czech successor to the former Czechoslovak Transport Research Institute (est. 1955) by the decision of the Minister of Transport of the Czech Republic.

CDV is the only research institute on transport issues

under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transport. It employs 119 persons of all transport expertise including 67 University graduates (11 of them with scientific degree) and 33 High School graduates. Its missions are to provide conceptual, methodical, informational and expert service for the Ministry, transport research and development and implementation of the research results, expertise, analysis, diagnostics and consultation, transfer of foreign experience and knowledge, adaptation of legislation of EU to Czech Republic. CDV branch profiles are transport policy, transportation

prognosis and modelling, statistics informatics, GIS, land use transport planning, transport safety, environment, road and urban engineering, public transport, air transport, combined transport, traffic psychology and sociology, telematics. The institute is in professional contact with similar institutes abroad and with other international bodies to create bilateral or multilateral cooperation in the transport sector. CDV is a member of FERSI since 1994 and FEHRL since 1996. CDV operates a quality management system certificated in compliance with EN ISO 9001.

Közlekedéstudományi Intézet Rt. Hungary



The Institute for Transport Sciences Limited Liability Company, Ltd. (KTI) has been established in 1938, in accordance with the laws of Hungary, registration number: Cg. 01-10-042253, « Fővárosi Cégbíróság », Budapest, Nádor u. 28, Hungary. The objective of the Institute for Transport Sciences Ltd. (KTI), as a national research institution, is to study, adapt and publish the theoretical and practical aspects needed for the development and operation of transport, to satisfy social and economic demands. During the past 10 years the Institute - in addition to surveys and specific studies - has carried out an average

of 400 projects and research-development commissions annually. The first predecessor of the Hungarian Institute for Transport Sciences was founded in 1938. In the light of economic developments, beginning in 1970 a new dimension was added to the activities, which concentrated on research and development studies for the improvement, maintenance and operation of public roads. As the Institute developed, the proportion of commissions in passenger and freight transport, urban transport and traffic safety - including their various sub-sectors - has increased. The demand for transport efficiency,

combined with ever-closer and more complex relationships between society, economics and transport, has made it necessary to carry out studies in environmental protection, traffic management, logistics, telematics and information technology on an international basis, related to networks and system, reaching beyond the transport sector. As a result of Hungary's intentions to join the European Union, the volume of research related to EU harmonization and sustainable traffic improvement has increased in the mid-nineties.

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European Technology Platforms

Technology Platforms appear to be developing into a new instrument of FP6, as they are the natural extension of the Integrated Projects. Moreover they permit to work nearer to the market. They provide a space for industry to build its own critical mass. Their endorsement will open doors within the Commission's programmes and with partners such as the European Investment Bank. This will open doors in national governments and Europe's risk capital industry.

The Commission is, with the platforms, taking the idea of Eureka Initiative, but it will be possible to present the platforms to Ministers in the preamble of every directive and regulation that touches on competitiveness.

The role of research in the platforms, particularly academic research, is an intellectual input. Research is there to solve problems and provide skilled workers to make put these solutions into practice.

The sector-specific needs of the platforms will be addressed in each of the strategic Research and Development plans. Concerning the basic research base, maybe there will be a need for a basic research platform.

Platforms will include industrialists and also representatives of research institutes and academics.

The aim is to put the argument that basic research does pay off, particularly when researchers are able to go their own way.

The interesting Platforms for ECTRI members are E-safety Forum, ERTRAC, ERRAC and application transport on hydrogen and fuel cell.

Next Events / News

- Next events :
 - > **ITS Budapest** : ECTRI will be represented at ITS Europe in Budapest, with a booth, from **24 to 26 of May 2004**.
 - > **WCTR Istanbul** : ECTRI will be represented with a booth from **4 to 8 of July 2004**.
- Next Assembly meetings :
 - > **November 11 & 12, 2004**, Crowthorne, United Kingdom
 - > **April 6 & 7, 2005**, Oslo, Norway
 - > **November 14 & 15, 2005**, Madrid, Spain
- Next Board meetings:
 - > **June 22, 2004**, Paris, France
 - > **September 9, 2004**, Brussels, Belgium
 - > **November 11 & 12, 2004**, Crowthorne, United Kingdom
 - > **February 2005**, Lyon, France
 - > **April 6 & 7, 2005**, Oslo, Norway
 - > **November 14 & 15, 2005**, Madrid, Spain
- News:
 - > Our Activities Report 2002-2003 is available on the website and will soon be available in printed format.

