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Editorial

*ECTRI wishes you a successful
and happy New Year 2009*



By Josef Mikulik
ECTRI Vice-President
CDV Ex-Director

The Czech Republic takes the Presidency of the European Union after France from 1 January 2009. This assumption can be also considered more widely, not only as a result of political agreements administrating the governance of the European Union. It could be also taken as a symbolical statement of long lasting and close cooperation between both countries whose roots extend far to the history. Very long Editorial could be devoted to the number of such historical events that also have had its wider European context. But the last one is worth to be mentioned – intergovernmental agreement on mutual cooperation between France and the Czech Republic signed by President Sarkozy and Prime Minister Topolánek in May this year. This agreement explicitly states the support for mutual cooperation between French transport research institutes INRETS and LCPC and the Czech Transport Research Centre (CDV). So, there is not only a coincidence of a continuance of the topic of this Editorial and its aim to a follow-up of the Lyon's event.

There is no doubt that the EU French Presidency Event on Surface Transport under the headline „SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY RESEARCH AND CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE” held in Lyon from 8 to 12 December 2008 under the supervision of the European Union French Presidency, the Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable development and Land Planning, the Mi-

nistry for Higher Education and Research and INRETS accomplished its mission and reached its goals. The ideas and effort put in the content of the event and all activities resulting in the Lyon's Declaration clearly replaying to the „2020 Vision for the European Research Area” has to be highly appreciated. The Lyon's Event successfully managed to bring together all key European transport research stakeholders and to lay fundamentals for a tradition of meetings for European scientific and surface transport community as an integral part of the following EU Presidencies activities.

The Czech Republic accepts this initiative as a challenge to be further developed during the upcoming Czech EU Presidency. The announcement of this event was already officially presented by Petr Šlegr, Deputy Minister of Transport, during the closing session of the EU French Presidency Event on 11 December 2008. The „EUROPEAN TRANSPORT RESEARCH AND INNOVATION WEEK” will be organized within the Czech EU Presidency under the auspices of Czech Minister of Transport by the Transport Research Centre (CDV) in the city of Brno from 12 to 15 May 2009.

The European Transport Research and Innovation Week will be an all-European action concentrating the main activities in the transport research field. It is being prepared as a meeting of the signatories of the Lyon Declaration and representatives of European Commis-

sion and key European transport research associations, networks of excellence and technological platforms, including the meeting of the FP7 Transport Program Committee. The objective of this European meeting will be, in the spirit of the Lyon Declaration, further deepening of mutual cooperation and strengthening of the transport research status. The meeting should be also an opportunity for enlarging of the existing and creation of new contacts in the transport research field with third countries from the regions of outside EU, particularly of Western Balkan, Russia, Ukraine and other ex-Soviet countries. Last but not least, the meeting should serve as an important opportunity for presenting key European activities in the transport research field to Czech professional public.

International conference on “Urban mobility” will be a core action. The conference will discuss the opportunities for the implementation of the Commission's Green Paper “Towards a New Urban Mobility Culture”. The conference will launch the process of transferring its principles, aiming at transport quality increase in cities and urban areas, into practical application. Its part will be an exhibition focusing particularly on transport in cities and presenting up-to-date knowledge and solutions in this field.

We hope that the Brno week will be a respectable follower of the Lyon event. The ECTRI involvement will play the significant role again.

INRETS event in Lyon-Bron, 8-12 December 2008: Signature of the «Lyon Declaration»

The **Lyon Declaration** is a result of common and intense work with the most relevant European Transport organisations. This document was signed on 11 December 2008, by ECTRI, FEHRL, FERSI associations and APSN-ISON VCE¹, HUMANIST VCE, EURNEX NoE² and NEARCTIS NoE.

Guy Bourgeois, INRETS Managing Director, presented the main key messages of this declaration in a speech held during the closing session of the INRETS event: this declaration aims to strengthen the current cooperation between these organisations and to extend this cooperation with other organisations which are active in transport research. A common view of what the Transport research priorities should be in the next 20 years is also proposed and detailed. This document expresses the will to im-

plement the 2020 vision of the European Research Area and to find solutions to the big challenges our society is facing, which are linked to the transport field (congestion, safety, security). The declaration also stands for the so called "fifth European freedom", which is the mobility of researchers, and for this, promotes the dissemination of knowledge and the mutualisation of research infrastructures in Europe. This relies on a strong effort of reinforcement of the joint programming of research and planning of strategic agendas in the drafting of national and European programmes. Finally, the declaration reminds that Europe should stay open to the rest of the world and should develop in a cooperation spirit, but with a special concern to intellectual property rights, in order to make this cooperation

fruitful and fair.

You can find the full text of this Declaration on the ECTRI website: <http://www.ectri.org/Publications/Strategic-Documents.htm>

This document will be officially delivered by the signatory organisations to the European Commissioner of Research, Janez Potočnik at early 2009.

- 1) VCE: Virtual Centre of Excellence
- 2) NoE: Network of Excellence



Signature of the Lyon Declaration by 7 organisations' representatives

Inauguration and official launching of 'ETRR' First papers online!

The **European Transport Research Review (ETRR)** inauguration took place in Lyon on 10 December 2008.

ETRR is an initiative of ECTRI to create a new ad'hoc soft research infrastructure, which is critical to the European transport scientific community. This new review is a multidisciplinary scientific journal dedicated to transport and covering all fields of transport. Its aim is the publication of high quality scientific papers, dissemination of new ideas and developments, publication of information papers, books and conference reviews. The editor of ETRR is Springer Verlag.

This publication distinguishes itself from other reviews through several characteristics: it is an open access journal with easy access via internet (this assures a widely availability of the journal and is free of charges for the authors and for the readers). It is open to researchers and practitioners, and induces a very short delay between submission of paper, the reviewing

process (led by three experts), acceptance and publication of the paper. This delay was 6 to 8 weeks for the first edition, and the goal of publishing papers of quality was reached.

The meetings of the Advisory and Editorial Boards took place on December 10 and were the occasion to inaugurate and launch the first issue. For this first release, there was a call for papers in July 2008 with a deadline on September 19; for the next issues, the submission is permanent. Currently, five papers are online. The meeting ended with the official signature of the contract between Guy Bourgeois, ECTRI President, Dieter Merkle from Springer Verlag, Evangelos Bekiaris (HIT, Greece) as Editor in Chief and Christian Piehler (DLR, Germany), Chair of ETRR Advisory Board.

If established by ECTRI, the European Transport Research Review is completely independent. ETRR's vision is to become soon, one of the world-leading journals



Signature of ETRR contract between ECTRI and Springer Verlag' representatives

in Transport.

Every researcher can submit his/her paper to the following address:

<http://www.springer.com/12544>

On this link, you can also read the first papers, which are online since early December 2008.



FOT-Net - networking platform for Field Operational Tests



In Europe, Field Operational Tests (FOT) have mostly been carried out at national level in the past. There is now a growing need to incorporate FOTs into a common European framework. Therefore, national, European and international FOT organisers are being brought together in one strategic networking platform: the European FOT-Net project, the point of reference for anyone interested in the organisation, structure and results of FOTs. TNO is a partner in this project. Field Operational Tests (FOT) are large-scale test programmes that aim to comprehensively assess the efficiency, quality, robustness and acceptance of ICT solutions used for smarter, safer, cleaner and more comfortable transport solutions. A large number of ICT-based transport applications have been successfully developed and demonstrated in collaborative research projects throughout Europe. Today, there is a growing need to understand several questions which are crucial for the market introduction and penetration of these systems: - How does the driver use the system? - What are the

short and long term effects? - How can the systems performance be further improved?

Large-scale testing in real driving conditions during a significant period of time can provide answers to these questions that will enable policy makers to establish the right policy framework for deployment. They will also help business leaders to make informed decisions about the market introduction of the systems.

One-stop shop for FOTs:

The European FOT-Net project is open to all stakeholders from public and private sectors willing to exchange knowledge and experience, and benefit from each other's learning. The website www.fot-net.eu will be the central access point for information on previous, current and future FOTs.

The FOT Portal will:

- Contain information about and direct links to FOTs at national, European and international level
- Provide examples of good practice
- Inform you about the latest news on campaigns, achievements, meetings and events
- Invite you to discuss and share your experiences and results.

TRL Certification launched



TRL has announced the launch of a new subsidiary company, which will provide independent third party Certification and Assurance services to existing TRL customers and new industry sectors. For many years TRL has worked with public and private companies throughout the world, developing Standards, Specifications, Guidelines and Protocols. As a result of increasing demand from customers, these activities have developed and grown significantly. TRL feels the time is now right to bring them all together under a single banner and is setting up a new subsidiary company for this purpose. This new company will:

- Develop TRL's existing Certification business by operating as a truly independent Certification Body, which will be recognised in the market place by users and specifiers and demonstrate a clear separation from TRL's established consultancy and research business
- Build a new Certification business for the purposes of adding market value to our customers' products and services
- Build partnerships with Trade Associations and industry bodies to certify on their behalf, for their benefit
- Publish a comprehensive list of 'Approved Products and Services', the customers can use to add market's confidence and recognition

One agreed methodology:

To improve the significance, visibility, comparability and transferability of the FOT results available at national and European level, a common European FOT methodology has been developed in the FESTA project. This project has developed a handbook which gives general guidance on organisational issues, methodology and procedures, data acquisition and storage, and evaluation (www.festaproject.eu).



The FESTA methodology will be explained and discussed at **seven FOT-Net seminars** that will cover issues such as: starting a FOT, implementing a FOT, equipment, consumer relations and marketing, data handling, assessment and policy making support and cooperative systems.

The first two seminars took place 23-24 October in Brussels, the other five will be held in 2009 and 2010. They will be organised jointly by TNO and the University of Leeds.

- Become UKAS Accredited to certify to ISO9001:2000 during 2009 and follow on to offer ISO14001, Environmental Management Systems Certification
- David Pickavance, TRL's Development Director for Certification says; "We can work with specifiers, Associations or industry groups to produce specifications and certification schemes quickly, which are relevant to particular specialist sectors. This will help to give a clear and recognisable differentiation for those who choose to show their ability and status as compliers and improvers."

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INTERACTION kick-off meeting, Bron, France, 27-28 November 2008



INTERACTION project: Understanding driver interactions with in-vehicle technologies. In November 2008, the Project INTERACTION started for 42 months under the co-ordination of ERT and the scientific supervision of INRETS. The consortium gathers 10 European partners (ERT, INRETS, CDV, CTAG, FACTUM, ISEC, INTEMPORA, SWOV, TRL, and VTT) from 8 countries and also 2 Australian institutes (MUARC and GI). The aims of the project are to identify the patterns of use of new technolo-

gies by European drivers and to analyze their effects on driver's behaviour and skills. Differences and similarities of drivers regarding in-vehicle technologies will be investigated at both micro and macro levels: i.e. at the individual and country level. For that, partners will implement a scientific approach associating self-report and observation of driver behaviour and qualitative and quantitative analysis. This will be done through focus groups, questionnaire surveys, naturalistic and experimental observations. The kick off meeting of INTERACTION took place

at Bron (France), in the INRETS premises, on November 27 and 28. It set up the objectives and workprogramme of the incoming months.

Further information:

<http://www.interaction-fp7.eu>



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> As sponsor of the **EU French Presidency event**, organised by **INRETS in Lyon, 8-12 December 2008**, ECTRI actively participated to the event as follows:

- ECTRI held its **Board and Assembly Meetings** respectively on 8 and 9 December. On this occasion the first part of the new Strategic Paper was adopted by the Assembly. ECTRI's new memberships were discussed, in particular the Assembly validated a change to the association Statutes to favor the integration of new members. A report on FP7 was made by the dedicated taskforce, giving some information on projects involving ECTRI members. Updates on the preparation of the Young Researchers Seminar (YRS) were presented by Cristina Pronello, Chairwoman of the YRS Steering Committee. The cooperation with other European organisations, at the light of the Lyon Declaration, was also discussed. A new Board, which will enter into duty on 27 January 2009, was elected and the draft budget for 2009 approved.

- Seven **ECTRI Thematic Working Groups** also met during this

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week, in order to produce three contributions: a matrix of competencies, a strategic research agenda and ideas for the 7th Framework Programme update (2011-2013). These contributions, especially ideas for FP7 update, will be taken into account in a final deliverable to be issued by INRETS in January 2009.

- **ECTRI experts** participated in the event's **transversal sessions**: Barbara Lenz, DLR, in 'Gender Equality'; Cristina Pronello, POLITO, in 'Young Researchers'; Christian Piehler, DLR, in 'Management and Governance'.

- The **YRS 2009 Steering Committee meeting** took place on December 10 and aimed to review and select the young researchers' abstracts.

> The ECTRI Secretary, Dietmar Wurzel, was invited to make a presentation which highlights ECTRI's priorities and programmes in a meeting held by the **ERA-NET Transport Plenary Group** in Köln, on 2 December 2008. This meeting aimed to identify scientific synergies and to explore future possible cooperation between ERA-NET Transport and

stakeholders of the ERA, including ECTRI, as representative of the transport research institutes in Europe.

> The **ECTRI-TRB Working Group 10** has finalised its report on «EU/US Transport Research Cooperation Issues». This report will be presented in a special session «International Research Collaboration: Finding Common Ground» to be held during TRB Annual Meeting in Washington, on 12 January, from 8:00 to 12:00 at Hilton Hotel.

The new **ECTRI-TRB action plan** will be discussed during the International Activities Committee A0010 in order to launch a new serie of common activities for 2009-2010.

J. Mikulik, CDV, will present, on behalf of ECTRI, Europe's major safety concerns and successful research/innovative practices to address some of these concerns in the International Activities subcommittee A0010(2).

> ECTRI representatives will attend the **ERTRAC Conference 2009**, on January 26, in Brussels, Belgium.

Upcoming ECTRI events

- > ECTRI-TRB Working Group 10, special session at TRB Annual Meeting, 12 January 2009, Washington, USA
- > ECTRI Board Meeting, 18 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium