

## Table of Contents

Editorial  
Focus on events  
Members' activities

ECTRI facts and figures  
Upcoming ECTRI events

## Editorial



By Christian Piehler  
ECTRI Secretary  
DLR Program Director Transport

Dear readers,

The French Presidency event on Surface Transport from 8-12 December 2008 set the impressive frame for a most notable ceremony: the adoption of the "Lyon Declaration" on transport. The attention the Declaration received in Brussels appears noteworthy. The Commission's Transport Research News of 29 January 2009 referred to it as a powerful statement from the European surface research community, citing: "We consider surface transport-related research and expertise to be of crucial relevance to tackling the grand challenges of energy, climate change, globalization, ICT, and the ageing population faced by society, the economy and policy-makers.", and "We will address together the necessity of further developing dialogue between research and society, specifically the societal relevance of scientific expertise, and ethical and deontological rules."

ECTRI President Guy Bourgeois together with the other signatories handed the Lyon Declaration to Commissioner Potočník on 17 February 2009. On this occasion, also a pre-release of a report on "EU/US Transport Research Collaboration: Challenges and opportunities" was presented. The outstanding document covers a broad spectrum of condensed information on governance, management and financing issues of surface transport related

research in Europe and the US. It was prepared during the last two years by a joint working group of ECTRI and TRB, which was chaired by George Giannopoulos (HIT) and Michael Meyer (Georgia Tech).

The Lyon event in mid-December 2008 also hosted the ECTRI assembly. One highlight was the election of the Board, that as new members now involves Witold Olpinski (CNTK) as Vice-President, Christian Piehler (DLR) as Secretary and Alberto Compte (CEDEX) as Common Member. Our deepest thanks belong to Lasse Fridstrøm (TØI), Josef Mikulik (CDV) and Dietmar Wurzel (DLR) for their dedication and contribution to the further development of ECTRI in the outgoing Board.

The new Board took up its duties on 27 January 2009. Main topics for the upcoming two-year period include (1) an even closer cooperation with other European associations, and Technology Platforms; (2) an even more active role in the promotion of young talents and the management of European events; (3) implementation of the ECTRI-TRB action plan 2009-2010; (4) further development of the ECTRI Thematic Working Groups.

Since early 2009 the first issue of the open-access journal European Transport Research Review (ETRR) is online at [www.springer.com/12544](http://www.springer.com/12544). The ETRR is an inter-

disciplinary refereed journal that solicits original research contributions addressing the sector of transport in Europe. It was established by ECTRI and is published by Springer. To submit your next manuscript to the ETRR just go to [www.editorialmanager.com/etrr/](http://www.editorialmanager.com/etrr/).

Looking ahead, two major actions stand out underlining ECTRI's belief that training and supporting young researchers is of utmost importance. From 3-5 June the Young Researchers Seminar 2009 will be hosted by POLITO in Torino, Italy. Jointly organized with FEHRL and FERSI it will be the fifth such seminar bringing together junior researchers and experienced tutors from all over Europe. Upcoming in 2010 is the Young European Arena of Research. ECTRI has joined forces with other leading institutions for managing this competition. Launched by Commissioner Potočník, it is kind of an 'Olympics' for early-stage transport researchers.

Coming up soon, the European Transport Research and Innovation Week at CDV in Brno, Czech Republic, 11-15 May, will give plenty of opportunity for professional exchange and personal contacts. I am looking forward to meeting you there.

Sincerely yours,



## ECTRI participation in TRB 88th Annual Meeting Washington, DC, USA, 11-15 January 2009

ECTRI actively participated in the TRB 88th Annual Meeting, held on 11-15 January in Washington DC, USA. A delegation of 8 ECTRI Assembly and Board members was attending the different sessions: Guy Bourgeois, Georges Giannopoulos, Heikki Kanner, Neil Paulley, Dietmar Wurzel, Lasse Fridstrøm, Joris Al and Josef Mikulik. The Special Session about «International Research Collaboration: Finding Common Ground» (ses-

sions 226 & 227), taking place on 12 January was aimed to present the report made by the ECTRI-TRB Working Group 10 on «EU/US Transport Research Cooperation Issues». George Giannopoulos, CERTH-HIT, Greece, and Michael D. Meyer, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, also presided the session A0010(3) on 13 January, where the report was finalized by the Working Group 10. The same day, Josef Mikulik, CDV, Czech Re-

public, was invited to speak during the meeting of the Conduct of Research Committee, about the possibility of organising a European managers scanning tour to the US. Mr. Mikulik also participated to the SHRP2 - International coordination session. On 14 January, ECTRI representatives participated to the International Activities Committee and International Research and Technology Transfer Subcommittee A0010(2).

### New ECTRI Board

The **new Board**, which was elected during the last Assembly meeting in Lyon, France on 9 December 2008, entered into duty on 27 January. The members of this new Board are: Guy Bourgeois from INRETS, France, as President; Wi-

told Olpinski from CNTK, Poland, as Vice President; Christian Piehler from DLR, Germany, as Secretary; Cristina Pronello from POLITO, Italy, as Treasurer; Joris Al from DVS, The Netherlands, Niels Buus Kristensen from DTU-Transport, Den-

mark and Alberto Compte from CEDEX, Spain, as common members. The Board held its first meeting on 18 February, in Brussels at ECTRI's offices.

### Annual Meeting with Commissioner Janez Potočnik

On 17 February, ECTRI met with the European Commissioner of Science and Research, Janez Potočnik, in Brussels. The delegation was composed of Guy Bourgeois, ECTRI President, and the other signatories of the Lyon Declaration, C. Van Rooten, FEHRL President, A. Bekiaris, FERSI President, W. Steinicke, EURNEX President, and J-P. Médevielle from HUMANIST Virtual Centre of Excellence, also representing ISN VCE and NEARCTIS Network of Excellence. The main objective of this meeting was to present the 'Lyon Declaration' to the Commissioner.

The declaration aims to strengthen the current cooperation between the organisations which signed the declaration 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 implement 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 sharing 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 cooperative spirit, but with a special concern to intellectual property rights, in order to make this cooperation fruitful and fair.

Receiving the declaration, Commissioner Potočnik explained the difficulty to come to a common vision 2020; he was thankful for supporting the efforts to achieving this vision and bringing together so many organisations in signing this declaration. The Commissioner was informed of the intention of the signatories to deliver a common deliverable for FP7 update prepared by INRETS. The support to TRA 2010 Conference was also confirmed to the Commissioner.

Two other documents contributing to the building of the European Transport Research Area were handed over to the Commissioner: The final report on «EU/US Transport Research Cooperation Issues», made by the ECTRI-TRB Working Group 10, and the ECTRI-FERSI common paper on «The sustainable safety approach to Road Transport and Mobility», which was finalized end January by the ECTRI-FERSI Thematic Working Group on Traffic Safety.

Mr Potočnik was also informed on the launching of the European Transport Research Review (ETRR) created by ECTRI, and agreed to write the editorial of the next issue.



from left to right - Guy Bourgeois, ECTRI; Evangelos Bekiaris, FERSI; Commissioner Potočnik; Jean-Pierre Médevielle, HUMANIST-NEARCTIS-ISN representative; Wolfgang Steinicke, EURNEX; Claude Van Rooten, FEHRL

## KTI hosted 2 UNECE informal working groups meetings



**5th meeting of the UNECE GRSP informal working group on the safety of hydrogen vehicles (HFCV-SGS), 19-21 January 2009, KTI, Hungary:** The Work Programme of the UNECE World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (WP.29) includes the elaboration of a GTR (Global Technical Regulation) on liquid hydrogen fuelled vehicles. This work addresses two items: the development of requirements and methods on emission and the related tests (as well as the determination of the special safety requirements and test methods relating to such vehicles); the second item deals with HFCV-SGS (a subgroup on safety issues concerning the hydrogen and fuel-cell vehicles), an informal working group of WP.29

World Forum's subsidiary party, the GRSP (Working Party on Passive Safety). The informal working group met on 19-21 January at the KTI. This meeting recognised the activities of the Hungarian experts performed in the UNECE – 32 world-known experts (in addition to Europeans, representatives of the USA, Canada, China, Japan and South-Korea) assembled in the Institute for Transport Sciences (KTI) in Budapest. The work, concentrated on three days, lead to drafting the safety requirements related to high-pressure hydrogen storing and supplying systems.

**5th meeting of UNECE-GRSP-ELSA group dealing with safety problems of electric passenger cars, 22-23 January, KTI, Hungary:** The UNECE-GRSP-ELSA Group of Ex-

perts deals with safety problems of electric passenger cars. In the name of KTI's Managing Director, Dr. László RUPPERT, the Research Director Dr. József PÁLFALVI welcomed the experts of countries interested in electric car manufacturing and gave them a briefing on the Institute's past and present activities. In addition to EU countries, representatives of the USA, Japan and South Korea participated to the event. Representatives of renowned motor vehicle factories, RENAULT, Volkswagen, Toyota and BMW were also present. The result of a two-day debate was the adoption of a revised technical recommendation on regulation.

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## TRL at Traffex Exhibition - Birmingham, United Kingdom - 21-23 April



TRL will be exhibiting at this year's Traffex Exhibition which takes place the NEC, Birmingham between 21st and 23rd April 2009. This is the 24th year of this international traffic engineering, road safety and highway maintenance exhibition. TRL will be showcasing recent developments in software, driver behaviour, controlled motorways and the innovative Dynamic Roadspace Utilisation Manager (DRUM). TRL Software has had a busy 12 months, with new releases of its internationally-recognised traffic software and an expanding sales network around the globe. At Traffex, TRL will be demonstrating for the first time its updated roundabout

software, ARCADY 7. This product has undergone a major re-design to make it more compatible with TRANSYT, has an enhanced graphics capability and is now much more of a design tool. Other software programs available will be TRANSYT (TRANSYT 13.1) and PERS 2.5, TRL's pedestrian environment auditing software. Also on display, TRL's TRANSYT – VISSIM link software, which allows for the automatic input of VISSIM data into TRANSYT. Also on view, TRL's Motorway Traffic Viewer (MTV): visitors will be able to see in real time the ebb and flow of traffic around the NEC. MTV is a traffic visualization tool developed by TRL in conjunction with the Highways Agency that supports

network performance management, traffic control systems tuning and monitoring, as well as traffic data interpretation. DRUM has been developed in collaboration with MTS Mobile Traffic Solutions and delivers a new traffic management system for road works based on real traffic information. The result? Works that are completed more efficiently and more cost effectively, whilst minimising disruption to the road user. The RAC Foundation recently commissioned TRL to investigate the dangers of texting whilst driving, using TRL's Car Simulator. In footage shot to demonstrate how the research was conducted, the dangers will be only too apparent. Contact: [mtreen@trl.co.uk](mailto:mtreen@trl.co.uk)

## Transport Logistic tradeshow from Fraunhofer Transport Alliance Munich, Germany - 12-14 May



Fraunhofer Transport Alliance

Fraunhofer Transport Alliance at the "transport logistic" from May 12 to May 15, 2009 in Munich, Germany. Every two years the unique tradeshow "transport logistic" presents innovative solutions and products in the transport, logistics and telematics sectors. The organi-

zer expects a growing interest by more than 1,600 exhibitors from 57 countries on an area of 90,000 square meters. Fraunhofer Transport Alliance will take part in the fair together with its institutes Fraunhofer ATL from Nürnberg, Fraunhofer IML from Dortmund, Fraunhofer IPK from Berlin and Fraunhofer SCAI from Sankt Augustin. Topics such as green

logistics and innovative multimodal freight solutions and many other transport issues will be presented and discussed. Interested parties are welcome at fair hall B2, exhibition stand No. 501 / 602 on 12-15 May. Contact: Fraunhofer Transport Alliance Christiane Kollosche, Phone +49 231 / 9743 371 [info@verkehr.fraunhofer.de](mailto:info@verkehr.fraunhofer.de)



The euroFOT project, part of the EU's seventh framework programme, got under way in May 2008. This three-year project will investigate different in-vehicle systems in a series of practical tests aimed at studying the behaviour of truck and car drivers in everyday circumstances. TNO is sub-project leader of SP4 'Methodology and Experimental Procedures' and work package leader of WP6.4 'Impact Assessment'. In-vehicle systems (frontal collision warning, blind spot information, intelligent speed adaptation, etc.) will be integrated into increasingly more vehicles in the near future. A priori these systems appear to have a positive impact on traffic safety, efficiency, and the environment. This notion is supported

## euroFOT project

by research but only on a much smaller and 'experimental' scale. Major practical testing has hardly been undertaken yet this is key to understanding how in-vehicle systems are used in everyday practice. The study as called by the EC has a variety of stages. The first 'call' involves the FESTA project in which the method has been drawn up for implementing large-scale field trials. This project resulted in a series of guidelines for establishing, implementing and analysing large-scale field trials. Subsequent to this, euroFOT has been approved for in-vehicle systems. Complex research:

Practical tests involving in-vehicle systems have a complexity of their own, and the large scale just adds to this. The vast quantity of data to be collected must ultimately be pro-

cessed to enable comparable sets of data to be compared, analysed and interpreted. And where circumstances that could be of influence on the results of the test cannot be 'controlled' (like the weather, traffic intensity, etc.), these disruptive circumstances need to be reviewed retrospectively. In addition, all the logistics must be organised (for data collection, building in the data acquisition systems, sending questionnaires, etc.) and sometimes several systems will be combined in a single car or truck. This compounds the difficulty of studying the effects of a particular system. Despite this, these practical trials signal an important new link in research into the impact of in-vehicle systems.

[www.eurofot-ip.eu](http://www.eurofot-ip.eu)

## PROMIT project: Final Intermodal Innovation Day Conference Istanbul, Turkey - 12-13 February



The Hellenic Institute of Transport, ECTRI member, in cooperation with the European Intermodal Association (EIA), organized the Final Intermodal Innovation Day Conference of the project PROMIT (Promoting Innovative Intermodal Freight Transport). The two day Conference on "Sustainability and

efficiency through Intermodal Best Practice" took place at the premises of Chamber of Shipping in Istanbul, Turkey, on 12-13 February 2009. Outstanding industrial and R&D innovations presented, while particular emphasis has been placed on the efficiency and sustainability gains through a truly paperless European e-freight strategy.

As successfully achieved in the two previous Innovation Day Conferences, the aim was to bring together all types of actors of the European intermodal transport community in order to discuss these important topics and to foster networking and cooperation opportunities.

[www.promit-project.net](http://www.promit-project.net)

## DHERGO project



DHErgo (Digital Humans for Ergonomic design of products) is a FP7 project led by ECTRI member INRETS, France.

Aim of the project: The digital human models used for ergonomic design of products have to evolve towards dynamic and muscular ones. They must be able not only to have a realistic visual representation of human body and movement but also to evaluate the muscular efforts associated with a task for a better understanding of human performance and perceived discomfort. The present project will mainly focus on the following scien-

tific issues: - Development of multi-body dynamic motion reconstruction methods in order to estimate joint motion and joint forces; - Integration of existing human anatomic data and development of detailed human musculoskeletal digital models; - Collecting all necessary data for model developing and validation: collecting of the basic human functional data such as joint strength and joint limit will be continued; - Development of a hybrid optimisation/data based complex motion simulation approach: optimisation criteria based on joint force and muscle performance will be explored; - Development of a generic motion-based

biomechanical discomfort criterion: thanks to the musculoskeletal models to be developed, different biomechanical parameters including muscle forces and other soft tissues loads will be investigated; - Elderly people: basic biomechanical data of the elderly people will be collected. The effects of aging on movement and perceived discomfort will be studied.

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[www.dhergo.org](http://www.dhergo.org)






## ECTRI supported projects: CLOSER, METRONOME and YEAR 2010

ECTRI has favoured the preparation and is supporting **CLOSER** (Connecting Long and Short-distance networks for Efficient Transport), a collaborative project funded by the EC under FP7, led by CEDEX, Spain, and involving 7 ECTRI members: INRETS, FhG, VTT, CDV, HIT, VGTU-TMI. The European Transport Policy proposes the concept of **comodality** as an essential instrument to achieve, at the same time, a high level of mobility and of environmental protection. But the existing transport system still remains far away from that concept. The interface between long and short-distance transport in a door to door trip remains frequently as the weak link in the transport chain for both, passengers and freight. This situation favours the choice of unimodal solution by users, and jeopardizes the development of more competitive, and more sustainable, transport chains. The improvement of long/short distance interfaces appears as a key element to achieve the objectives of the European Transport Policy. The purpose of CLOSER is to build upon existing research and practice, developing innovative tools for the analysis of interfaces, check these tools in a number of case studies, and make concrete recommendations to stakeholders in order to get: 1. A more systematic approach to the whole project cycle of interfaces (from planning to design and operation).

2. Concrete guidelines for decision makers in order to cope with the challenges of a particular project, and to get the most from the opportunities that each project offer in the areas of transport, spatial and economic development. 3. A friendlier regulatory environment; fostering cooperation and supporting better integrated interfaces. 4. Improved mechanisms for financing those concepts with a higher degree of integration (including EU's funding schemes). 5. In-depth involvement of stakeholders, and particularly of transport operators. This approach pursues, in short, a more efficient transport system, by speeding up and improving the interface between long distance and urban-metropolitan-regional transport networks. Furthermore, it also pursues a framework for a more sustainable mobility system, by offering attractive public transportation alternatives to private road modes (cars, vans, trucks) the usual transport mode used in long-short distance interface, for its higher flexibility (and in the case of cars, comfort and individuality). Contact:

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**Metronome**  This FP7 project, led by VTT involves 5 ECTRI members: UPM, TRL, CERTH, CDV, DVS. It deals with the methodology for evaluation of projects impact in the field of transport. The aim

of the project is to evaluate the contribution of the 800 EC funded transport research projects to the current key themes of the European Policies. The METRONOME project, will contribute by developing a methodology for evaluation transport projects, from the perspectives of industrial competitiveness, sustainability concerns and uptake of research results in European policy developments. They will hold a workshop on «Assessing the impact of transport research projects - the end user perspective», on 15 April. Contact: [anu.tuominen@vtt.fi](mailto:anu.tuominen@vtt.fi)

**YEAR** YEAR2010: ECTRI supported the YEAR 2008 competition (Young European Area of Research) organised in the frame of TRA. For the project YEAR 2010 (FP7 funded), led by UCD, Ireland, ECTRI is involved as partner in the project, with Cristina Pronello, POLITO, Italy. Aimed at promoting the work of early-stage researchers from all Europe in the transport sector, a competition through the submission and evaluation of papers in the transport field will be organised. The winners of the competition will receive the YEAR award for scientific promise. The kick-off of the project took place in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 18 March 2009. Contact: [year@ucd.ie](mailto:year@ucd.ie)  
<http://year2010.fehrl.org>

> The new **Board held its first meeting** on 18 February, in Brussels, Belgium. Several decisions were taken during this meeting. Every Thematic Working Group (TWGs) of ECTRI has now a dedicated contact person in the Board, in order to create a closer relation between the Board and the TWGs. The Board launched the preparation of a new Joint Programme of Activities for 2010-2012. The membership issues and ECTRI's involvement in TRA 2010 were also discussed. The decision to support as an

### ECTRI facts and figures

associated partner the Network of Excellence NEARCTIS was taken. The participation of ECTRI in the Transport Research and Innovation Week (ETRIW), which will take place in Brno, Czech Republic, on 11-15 May 2009, was agreed, as well as the support to the Road Safety on 4 Continents Conference. Finally, the Board approved the 2008 accounts and the financial report.

> The preparation of the **Young Researchers Seminar 2009** is far progressing. The selected Young

Researchers have been distributed in sessions and attributed to a tutor. 7 research domains will be addressed during the Seminar:

- Transport economics and transport behaviour;
- Transport sustainability and environment;
- Transport safety.
- Intelligent transport system (ITS) Transport civil and road engineering;
- Rail;
- Traffic

The Young Researchers are now requested to submit a first version of their paper by 16 March. More information on: [www.ectri.org/YRS09/index.htm](http://www.ectri.org/YRS09/index.htm)

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### Upcoming ECTRI events

- > Next Board Meetings - 23 April and 30 June 2009 - Brussels, Belgium
- > General Assembly - 11-12 May - Brno, Czech Republic