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## Editorial



**By Houko Luikens**  
**Former Managing Director**  
**AVV Transport Research**  
**Center**

The transport problem is in fact “unsolvable”. That is to say: we will never meet a situation without traffic congestion, with no traffic accidents and with an endurable environmental balance. Most certainly not in the foreseeable future, but as far as I can see it also not in the longer run. Therefore I would rather speak about a challenge to find acceptable solutions for a intrinsic societal phenomena instead of the normal wording “transport problem”.

Policy makers and politicians have great problems with this situation and consider it sometimes even unacceptable. In fact there is a certain contradiction: politicians elected to solve problems admitting that they will not solve it. Programmes to solve the congestion problem (sometimes called a “heart infarct” for our modern society) or to abandon entirely traffic accidents (“zero accident policies”) are to be found manifold in policy papers all around the world. And we find a lot of initiatives to cope with the emission problems (“greenhouse gas” and noise especially) and the future energy situation. All these programmes and initiatives are still far from approaching the final goals. Transport without congestion is a “utopia” and economically unwanted and accidents are a normal factor in human life. The challenge is merely to define the acceptable objectives.

For researchers working with transport related issues new challenges emerge: solving the unsolvable problems and making clear at the same time to policy makers the boundaries of the solutions. The institutes united in ECTRI share a lot of knowledge in this field. I am sure they will face these challenges in an effective way in close cooperation with experts from all over the world.

Since October 1st I have retired as Managing Director of AVV Transport Research Center, one of the founding fathers of ECTRI. It means that I am (again) a “normal citizen” be it with a more than normal interest and expertise in transport. The solutions for my transport problems are therefore in your hands. I am sure you will not disappoint me.

Good luck and all the best!

## Last Assembly meeting in Crowthorne, UK

The last ECTRI Assembly meeting was held on November 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at TRL headquarters in Crowthorne, United Kingdom.

At this occasion, TU Belgrade was officially introduced as new ECTRI member for Serbia and Montenegro.

The current mandate of the present ECTRI Board will end on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005, therefore, the election of

the new Board had to be held during this Assembly meeting. The Assembly re-elected unanimously the present Board. As Houko Luikens, former Managing Director of AVV and member of the Board is retiring, he will be replaced by Hans Jeekel, present Acting Director of AVV. The new Board will take its functions on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005 for 2 years.

The Assembly also worked on the draft proposed for ECTRI contribution to 7FRDP. Taking into account the comments made by the members, the « 7FRDP ECTRI input » has been approved and submitted to the European Commission and European Parliament the week after the Assembly meeting. This contribution can be downloaded on ECTRI website at <http://www.ectri.org>.

## ECTRI presentation at OECD-ECMT

The forthcoming meeting of the OECD-ECMT Joint Transport Research Centre was held at OECD Headquarters in Paris.

During this meeting, the Director of the Centre indicated that the Centre Work Programme has been approved by the OECD Council and the ECMT Ministers

in July during the Ljubljana Assembly.

During this meeting, the DGTREN briefly presented its transport activities and the preparation of 7FRDP.

ECTRI has been presented on October 6 by Jean-Pierre Médevielle, ECTRI Secretary.

After the meeting, the presentation have been sent to all members of the committee.

It can be downloaded at <http://www.ectri.org>.

FEHRL was also invited to present its activities.

## European Transport Conference, Strasbourg, France

ECTRI was present through a booth at the European Transport Conference held in Strasbourg, France, from October 4 to 6, 2004.

The Conference started Monday 4 October, with a welcome address and introduction by the Association for European Transport. The programme finished on Wednesday 6 October.

More than 240 papers were presented, selected by the 11 Programme Committees from over 450 abstracts submitted

on the following themes: Optimism Bias in Road construction, Planning for sustainability, The value of time, Innovative approaches to traffic management in cities, London congestion charging : latest developments, Transport and tourism, Education and training in transport, Trans European roads and Rail networks.

Each day, the participants could choose between at least 10 seminars. The sessions last for

1½ or 2 hours and the audience was of 20 to 50 people in each session

An exhibition took place in the conference hall during the 3 days conference and was open the 3 whole days.

The Conference hosted participants from 27 countries; some ECTRI members were present through their managers, senior and junior researchers.

## Actualities

↳ HIT and INRETS, with the support of ECTRI Secretariat, prepared the first 6FRDP Marie Curie project on the subject of transport. This project, called TRANS-AID (Transfer of knowledge in Transport Infrastructure Financing) has been retained by the Commission and will be considered as a prototype project for ECTRI and FERSI members for Transfer of Knowledge between West and East.

↳ The 3<sup>rd</sup> Common Research Meeting between ECTRI, FERSI and FEHRL was held on November 4<sup>th</sup> at FEHRL Office in Brussels.

↳ Willy Diddens, new Secretariat member from AVV, presented ECTRI at Kaunas, Lithuania, during the conference "Transport means" on 28 and 29 October. You can download the presentation at <http://www.ectri.org>.

↳ The last ECTRI-FERSI Working Group 2 "Mobility and training » meeting took place at DLR office, Brussels, Belgium, on September 10<sup>th</sup>. ECTRI Project Officer attended this meeting on behalf of ECTRI Secretariat.

↳ The last ECTRI Working Group 4 "Soft research infrastructure issues" meeting was held on September 24<sup>th</sup> at VTI in Linköping, Sweden. ECTRI Project Officer was present at this meeting.

↳ The ECTRI demand of Trade Mark have been accepted by the Office of the European Union for Trade Marks and Design and has been published in the "Bulletin des Marques communautaires" of 8 November 2004, at page 882 with the number 045/2004 .

## Transport Research Laboratory Limited TRL



The Transport Research Laboratory Limited (TRL) is part of the Transport Research Foundation group of Companies, a company limited by guarantee whose registered office is at Crowthorne House, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 3GA, United Kingdom.

TRL is one of the largest and most comprehensive independent centres working in surface transport in the world. For more than 70 years it has developed research-based technical knowledge which enables clients to obtain a better understanding of transport problems, to improve value for money and to generate competitive advantage.

TRL works with governments and international funding institutions to set standards for

highway and vehicle design, formulate policies on road safety, improve transport and the environment, and encourage good traffic engineering practice. Its work for companies enables them to gain added value in providing and maintaining transport infrastructure and services, or to minimise the cost of transport on their operations.

TRL employs around 450 technical professionals, including engineers, mathematicians, physicists, psychologists, geologists, computer experts, statisticians; most have first degrees and many have higher degrees and doctorates. Facilities include a state of the art driving simulator, impact test facilities, a test track, a separate self-contained road network and a large structures hall. TRL's

breadth of expertise and facilities, with world acknowledged independence, provides clients with a knowledge based capability across the whole transport field, and brings the multidisciplinary approach needed to generate effective solutions. TRL's primary objective is to conduct commissioned research, investigations, studies and tests to the highest levels of quality, reliability and impartiality.

TRL carries out its work in such a way as to ensure that clients receive results that not only meet the project specification, but are also geared to rapid and effective implementation. TRL operates a quality management system, which is certificated as complying with BS EN ISO 9001.

## VTT Building and Transport, research institute of VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland—VTT



The VTT Building and Transport, research institutes of VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland is a government organisation under the laws of Finland and established by the « Technical Research Centre of Finland Act (144/72) » registered under the n° 0244679-4 with principle place of business at Lämpömiehenkuja 2, P.O. Box 1800, 02044 VTT, Finland. The Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) is an impartial expert organisation that carries out technical and technoeconomic research and development work. In total, VTT has ca 3000 employees and covers all domains in technology by its research and development activities. VTT Building and Transport with its 530 employees and turnover of 40 million EURO is one of VTT's six research institutes. Transport and Logistics is one of the five Research Areas at VTT Building and Transport.

Transport and Logistics has 70 employees. However, transport researchers also have at their disposal the expertise of all other VTT research areas, such as information systems engineering, industrial and manufacturing technologies, maritime technology and many other areas of technology. VTT Building and Transport has expertise in following areas of transport research: intelligent transport systems (ITS) or transport telematics, behavioural safety studies and safety effects of countermeasures, safety evaluation of transport telematics, development and analysis of transport systems, management and operation of transport systems, transport policy research, logistic system research including industrial production management, multimodal transport systems research, economic, environmental, social and other impacts of transport systems,

transport research methods and transport information and management systems, new technologies, artificial intelligence, neural networks. The main clients of VTT in the area of transport research are ministries, road, rail and aviation authorities, cities, private companies and international organisations. VTT has participated actively in the European Commission's Fourth and Fifth Framework Programmes as a partner or project coordinator in several transport related projects as well as in the TEN-T and TEN-Telecom programmes. VTT has particularly wide range of experience in the field of transport policy and the development of assessment methodologies. Activities include scientific work and practical applications both in domestic and in international projects.

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## Actualities

↳ ERTRAC has approved its Strategic Research Agenda. You can go to <http://www.ertrac.org> to have more information about this Agenda.

↳ The 11th World Congress on ITS was held from 18th

to 22th October at Nagoya, Japan. ECTRI Secretary was present at this World Congress, as well as other ECTRI members Junior and Senior Researchers.

↳ The last E-Safety Forum International Co-operation Working Group was held on Wednesday 20 October at Nagoya, Japan, during the ITS World Congress. Jean-Pierre Médevielle, ECTRI Secretary, was present at this meeting.

### ECTRI and ECTRI members presence in Technological Platforms

	ECTRI	ECTRI members presence	ECTRI member seniors presence
<b>ERTRAC</b>			
Assembly	X	X	
Support Group	X		
W.G. of Experts			X
<b>ERRAC</b>			
Assembly	X	X	
Support Group		X	
W.G. of Experts			X
<b>ACMARE</b>			
Assembly		X	
Support Group		X	
W.G. of Experts			X

In addition, ECTRI is represented in e-safety forum bodies within the

plenary and the steering group and through seniors within HMI WG and

IC WG.

## Next Events / News

- Next international events where ECTRI will be represented
  - > 1<sup>st</sup> FERSI Scientific Road Safety Research Conference, 7 and 8 September 2005, Bast, Germany
  - > AET European Transport Conference, Strasbourg, France, 3 to 5 October 2005
- Next Assembly meetings :
  - > 6 and 7 April 2005, Oslo, Norway
- Next Board meetings:
  - > 24 February 2005, Lyon, France
  - > 6 and 7 April 2005, Oslo, Norway
- Other meetings
  - > State of the Art meetings, December 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004