

Table of contents:

- Editorial
- Last Assembly meeting in Madrid, Spain
- Focus on events
- Presentations of ITS & CNTK
- Actualities
- Agenda



By
Lasse Fridstrøm,
Director of TØI
Member of the
ECTRI Board

ECTRI is a lean, but very efficient organization. Its small secretariat is processing an impressive amount of information, formal as well as informal, making sure that the members of ECTRI are kept vastly better up to date on important developments within the markets for transport research than they would have had any chance of being by acting on their own.

ECTRI not only reacts to this information, but takes on a proactive role, e. g. in relation to the framework programmes of the European Union. The European Commission apparently appreciates the contribution made

Editorial

by ECTRI to the development of the 7th Framework Programme (FP), as well as to the outcome of the 6th FP.

An important milestone in the development of ECTRI is the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the US Transportation Research Board (TRB), to be signed by the top level executives of both organisations on 22 January, during the 2006 TRB Annual Meeting. Stating that the parties acknowledge “their position of being representatives of a substantial part of the transport research community in their respective regions“, the MoU may represent a large leap forward for ECTRI, positioning our organisation as the most foremost umbrella of transport research institutions on the European continent, i. e. as TRB’s natural European counterpart.

During the TRA Conference, the President of ECTRI has been invited to deliver a keynote speech on the topic of “Sustainable mobility”.

One of the most promising initiatives taken by ECTRI is the formation of an open-access, electronic European transport research journal. Most international transport research reviews today are owned and run by American publishing companies. There is an obvious need for a Pan-European periodical. The success of such a review hinges, however, crucially on its scientific quality. The journal will need a highly competent editorial board and a collection of strongly skilled referees.

Allow me to wish all readers of the ECTRI Newsletter a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year!

Last Assembly meeting in Madrid, Spain

The ECTRI Assembly met in Madrid on last 24th and 25th November. 18 of the 19 members institutes were present at this meeting hosted and organized by UPM.

The Assembly welcomed its new members: ITS (Motor Transport Institute) and CNTK (Railway Scientific and Technical Center) representing Poland, and VÚD (Transport Research Institute) representing Slovakia.

The Assembly also thanked the three members of the Board who are leaving their institutes for new positions: Jörg Schütte (FHG-IVI), former Vice-President, Kurt Petersen (DTF), former Treasurer, Liisa Hakamies-Blomqvist (VTI), former

Board member. In order to replace them in their ECTRI Board positions, the Assembly elected the new Board members. Josef Mikulik (CDV) is now Vice President, Cristina Pronello (POLITO) is now Treasurer and Lasse Fridstrøm (TØI) and Christian Piehler (DLR) are now members.

During this meeting the Assembly also approved the project of 2006 budget as well as the project of Memorandum of Understanding that will be signed with the Transportation Research Board (TRB) on 22nd January 2006 in Washington during the TRB Annual Meeting.

Another important discussion of this Assembly was on the

Sustainability of Networks of Excellence (NoEs). One of the aim put by the European Commission about the NoE, new type of instruments in 6FRDP, is the sustainability of NoEs after the EC grant contract ends. Therefore all the NoEs have to make proposals for Business Plan for Integration and Sustainability (BPIS) and be approved sufficiently in advance to be implemented before the end of the contracts. As a number of ECTRI members are implicated in one, two or three NoEs, it was important to have this discussion in order to prepare the future of the three ECTRI sponsored NoEs: HUMANIST, APSN and EURNEX.

Communicating European Research 2005 Brussels, Belgium—14 & 15 November 2005

The Communicating European Research Conference was held in Brussels on 14 and 15 November 2005. The conference was organized by The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and focused on the manifold



ECTRI booth at the exhibition

aspects of science communication.

The conference was officially opened by Commissioner for Research, Mr Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Information Society, Mrs Viviane Reding and as a special guest by Asimo, the most advanced humanoid robot in the world. The Opening Ceremony was hosted by Mr Philippe Busquin.

Around 2100 participants, including project-coordinators, journalists and communication professionals as well as representatives from research or-

ganizations were present during the two-days conference.

The conference was shared between "main sessions", "forum sessions", "How to...? sessions" and media events. The main sessions were on various themes such as: "Science at school – lost cause or real winner?", "Science by SMS serving science in a swift moving society", "Science journalism in Europe: luxury or necessity?" or "Prospects and perils of science communication: the researcher's experience".

Forum sessions provided subjects such

as "How to reach the business media?" "Practical tips for Press officers" or "Communicate to the public: science festivals & science weeks". How to sessions were dedicated to practical information on the way to communicate on research and media events were dedicated to journalists.

In parallel with the conference, a major exhibition was held, hosting 244 exhibits on 9000 m². Many different sub-

jects were presented such as research initiatives or communication strategies of research organisations. The exhibition was attended by many delegates as a complement to the programme. The exhibits were grouped in 4 themes:

1. EU projects
2. Professional services
3. International, national and regional research initiatives
4. Education, publications, public events.

ECTRI was present in the exhibition through a booth where a new presentation of ECTRI was



ECTRI new presentation

implemented. This new presentation was attractive and made many delegates come to the stand and ask for some information about ECTRI, so that our presence at this conference can be considered as successful.

European Transport Conference 2005 Strasbourg, France—3 to 5 October 2005

The last European Transport Conference was held in Strasbourg from 3 to 5 October 2005.

The conference was shared between sessions and an exhibition in which ECTRI was present through a booth.

On a total of 261 presentations, 41 were presented by seniors from 11 ECTRI member organizations which represents 1/6 of the participation.

The three winners of the Young Researchers Seminar 2005, Nicolas Dapzol from INRETS, Ringo Liebscher from FHG and Juliette Marais from INRETS, were invited to present their papers as an award of their excellent participation at the seminar.

A special session was arranged between ECTRI and AET on 3rd October and was dedicated to the presentation of their pa-

pers. This session was chaired by Neil Pauley from TRL who made a small presentation of ECTRI, before the presentations of the three Young Researchers.



Exhibition hall of ETC



Motor Transport Institute—ITS



Motor Transport Institute (MTI) is located 80, Jagiello ska Str., 03-301 Warsaw, Poland.

The institute has started its activity in 1952. At the present time it is the scientific and investigation base of Polish motor transport, supporting its modernization and development.

MTI staff includes more than 100 respected specialists within many professors and Ph. D's. Laboratories of the Institute are equipped in most precise and modern devices, often unique in national and European level.

MTI has many tasks and duties. It coordinates the scientific and investigation works in the field of motor transport, it is the leading company in elaboration of new organizational, technical and economical solutions in the field of traffic road safety and natural environment preservation. It performs other

very important special tasks, which makes easier to reach goals of social and economical state politic.

Most important tasks of the Institute are scientific investigations and development works leading to the following targets: improvement of functioning and organization of motor transport in general; limitation of negative consequences of the motor transport and traffic development from the point of view of road safety and natural environment; scientific elaboration of new material solutions for motor transport industry, including an improvement of exploitation materials as oils, coolants, etc.

MTI works not only for central state administration, as the Ministry of Transport and Construction, Ministry of Environment, as well as the respective Parliamentary Committees, Polish Main Office for Meas-

urements, Headquarter of Police, Polish Standardization Committee, Council of Road Traffic Safety, but also it maintains a wide business contacts with individual clients (certification of great variety of motorization goods) and is working very closely with several Experts Associations of different fields of motor industry.

International cooperation of the MTI has a long and spectacular history. The Institute has been working for many years with such foreign institutions as: "Kuratorium F r Verkehrssicherheit", Austria, Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute, Federal Institute BAST in Germany, Belgian Road Safety Institute, Board of Directors of European Transport Safety Council. Also our scientists are members of special teams of UN and EU, working on problems of motor transport and road industry.

Railway Scientific and Technical Centre—CNTK



Railway Scientific and Technical Centre is located ul. chłpickiego 50, 04-275 Warszawa, Poland

CNTK is involved in research and development as well as consulting activities for railways and urban transport in the fields of rolling stock, permanent way, electric traction, signalling and other power supply systems and electro-energetic power supply systems, control command and signalling systems and devices, telecommunications, radio-communication and telematics systems and devices, materials and construction elements for rolling stock and infrastructure, transport processes management, environment protection including noise measurement, CBA analyses, technical assessment of the state of railway structures, systems, devices, incidents and events related tests, logistics.

CNTK has also specialised test facilities: its own experimental track in Żmigród for example for testing of rolling stock (full scale tests of rail vehicles crashworthiness), permanent

way, traction, a test stand for testing vehicles' bogies, a test stand for testing vehicle braking systems and friction materials, a test stand for testing train braking systems (up to 50 wagons), facility for testing flammability of the materials used in railway rolling stock, a buffing test ramp for wagon strength and dynamic tests under impact conditions, a fatigue test rig for testing components and structures, test facility for radio communication equipment, devices for measurement and tests to be carried at railway lines for permanent way, traction as well as for signalling and control command systems.

The Most important R&D activities of CNTK are:

- AEIF / CEN / CENELEC: CNTK experts are actively involved in the European Association for Railway Interoperability works aimed at elaboration of the TSI specifications as well as in other legislative and standardisation European activities

- ERRAC/EURNEX: CNTK is involved in the works of the European Railway Research Advisory Council and in the project European Railway Research Network of Excellence
- SAFETRAN, SAFETRAM, POLCORRIDOR, RANSCELOG SAFETY, THEMIS, IMAC, European projects; E65, E20, feasibility studies; national projects

CNTK has also engineering and scientific competences: 66% of CNTK employees are forming highly specialised and experienced staff dedicated to research and scientific activities in the field of long distance railway and rail city transport. CNTK holds Polish Centre for Accreditation PCA accreditation for: Metrology Laboratory, Signalling and Telecommunication Laboratory, Materials and Construction Elements Laboratory.

Actualities

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
<http://www.ectri.org>

Concept and editing:

Jean-Pierre Médevielle
Caroline Alméras

Lucile Murier

Design and layout :

Lucile Murier

Editor :

Jean-Pierre Médevielle

✚ A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been prepared in collaboration with the US Transportation Research Board and will be signed between ECTRI and TRB during the TRB 85th Annual Meeting that is organized in Washington D.C., USA from 22 to 26 January 2006. The signature of the MOU will take place during the International Reception on Sunday, January 22nd at the Hilton Washington Hotel in presence of TRB and ECTRI officials as well as representatives of the European Commission.



✚ The NET-TRACK project began on October 1st. The aim of the project is to

contribute to the realisation of the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of surface transport by involving leading research institutes from New Member States (NMS), Acceding Countries (AC) and Western Balkan Countries (WBC) in current European research efforts, notably in research management and in soft research infrastructures issues. The kick-off meeting was held on October 19th at INRETS Lyon-Bron center, where all the partners of the projects as well as the EC Project Officer were present. NET-TRACK has also been presented on the ECTRI stand during the Communicating European Research Conference in Brussels on 14 and 15 November where a leaflet presenting the project has been distributed.

The first Workshop on Research Management will be held in June 2006 in Budapest.

In Memoriam



Knut Østmoie, former Director of Research and Managing Director of TØI through several decades, died on 17th December, at the age of 62.

His colleagues and friends have received the news about his decease with deep grief.

Knut Østmoie dedicated his entire professional life to transport research. He will be remembered for his outstanding and long-lasting contribution to transport planning and policy, in Norway as well as internationally. He committed TØI to ECTRI from the early initiative in 2001.

He will deeply be missed.

Next Events / News

- Next international events where ECTRI will be represented
 - > **TRB Annual Meeting**, Washington D.C., USA, 22 to 26 January 2006 : signature of the MOU and presence through a booth
 - > **Transport Research Arena**, Göteborg, Sweden, 12 to 16 June 2006
 - > **European Transport Conference 2006**
 - > **ITS World Congress 2006**, London, 8 to 12 October 2006For these 3 conferences, ECTRI will be present through a booth.
- Next Assembly meetings
 - > Torino, Italy, 6 & 7 April 2006
 - > Helsinki, Finland, 20 & 21 November 2006
- Next Board meetings
 - > Lyon-Bron, France, 22 February 2006
 - > Torino, Italy, 6 & 7 April 2006
 - > Helsinki, Finland, 20 & 21 November 2006