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Editorial



In Budapest, the Assembly and the Board decided to have a newsletter for internal and external diffusion.

Today, I am happy to present you the first ECTRI newsletter. We hope to produce from now, four of this Newsletter per year, all in electronic version to be disseminated by email and also available on the new Website which is

in preparations.

I wish you a good reading.



**Pr. Giannopoulos
Chairman**

Our last Assembly meeting in Budapest

ECTRI last Assembly meeting took place in Budapest on 28 October 2003.

During this meeting, some important decisions for the future of ECTRI were adopted.

The 'Strategic paper' was approved and published at the same time as Report ECTRI 2003-1. Its aim is to outline and project a common view of what is the vision of ECTRI for the future as well as the scope and objectives of ECTRI 'presence' in European transport research in the long term.



Moreover, the Association adopted the Joint Programme of Activities (JPA), known as the 'Business plan', valid for a 3 years period that pursues the ECTRI vision and defines the ECTRI business as well as the background to all the ECTRI activities.

Decision was also adopted to accept TU Zilina

as new member after its application.

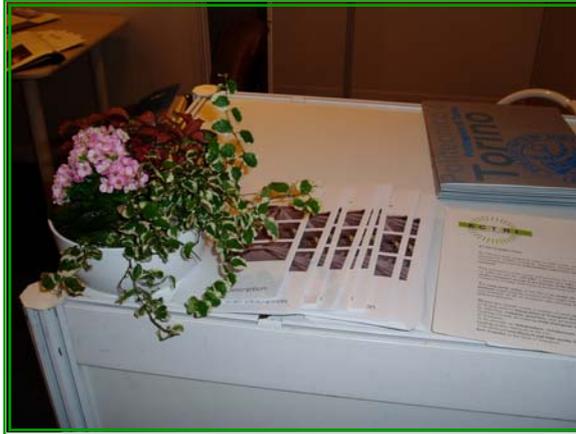
A visit of the KTI, our Hungarian member, was made and the Secretary and the President were also present at the ECMT 50th Anniversary, which took place just after the Assembly meeting.

Budapest ECMT

ECTRI association was present at the 50th Anniversary of the ECMT in Budapest from 29 to 31 October 2003, for the 16th International Symposium on Theory and Practice in Transport Economics. This Symposium is organised every 3 years by the European

national administrations, universities, research institutes, consultancy services, organisations represent-

Our President, Pr. Giannopoulos, was rapporteur for the Topic 2 : *Competition and regulation : substitutes or complements?*



Moreover, our presence through a booth on the exhibition permitted us to make some new contacts with potential members and also to explain our

Conference of Ministers of Transport and brings together representatives of Governments, natio-

ting transport operators, workers and users and international organisations.

work to number of people who visited the exhibition between two conferences.

Madrid ITS World Congress

ECTRI was also present at the 10th

World Congress and Exhibition on Intelligent Transport Systems and Services (ITS) together leading ITS decision-makers.

moderator of a session during the Congress.

World Congress and Exhibition on Intelligent Transport Systems and Services (ITS) organized from 16 to 20 November in Madrid, Spain.



Heikki Kanner from VTT as ECTRI member and Jean-Pierre Médevielle, ECTRI Secretary

The 2003 Congress theme was « Solutions for today and tomorrow » and the event brought

We can remind that our Secretary, Jean-Pierre Médevielle, is member of the International programme committee, as Deputy General Director of INRETS, France, for the representation of Europe, he was also

A booth was also booked on ITS Exhibition in order to present ECTRI activities, ECTRI members, and also, present our Strategic Paper. Some interesting contacts have been made, that can be developed in the future.



Actualities

✚ **COST** : Decision was made by COST CSO in December 2003 to accept ECTRI supported WATCH proposal : Changing behaviour towards a more sustainable transport system.

✚ **ECMT-OECD transport research centre** : Houko Luikens (AVV) has been elected as Chairman of the Steering Committee, Urban Karlstrom (VTI) as Vice Chairman and Lazlo Ruppert (KTI) as member of the Bureau of this Steering Committee. Other ECTRI members belonging to this Steering Committee are Josef Mikulik (CDV), Knut Ostmoie (TOI) and Jean-Pierre Médevielle (INRETS).

✚ **Meetings with the Commission** : The President and the Secretary were received by the Commission. Mr. Vandenberghe, member of Commissioner Busquin Office was met on January 29, and Mr. Tokamanis was met on January 30. These two meetings were very fruitful and we were confirmed that Commissioner Busquin has been supporting ECTRI initiatives from the beginning.

✚ **6FRDP** : Three NoEs and a CA are supported by ECTRI : HUMANIST (DGINFSO), APSN (DGRTD), EUR²EX (DGRTD) and TRANSFORUM (DGTREN).

✚ Many ECTRI members are involved in **e-Safety projects and networks**, such as : PREVENT, APROSYS, AIDE, GST or EASYS.

✚ ECTRI is involved in **IP MARNIS**.

✚ **American TRB** : The President and the Secretary were invited to the annual TRB meeting. ECTRI was represented by the Secretary and some ECTRI members were also present such as TOI and CDV.

ECTRI-FERSI Young Researchers Seminar 2003

A deliverable of the presentations and a CD of the sessions will soon be available at the Secretariat

The first joint Young Researchers Seminar between ECTRI and FERSI was held in Bron, France, from 16 to 18 December 2003. 14 tutors and 43 young researchers having less than 7 years of professional career were present.

Three themes of studies were chosen dealing respectively with transport safety, transport economics and environmental issues. To encourage and support the young researchers, an award was given to the best paper and to the two following ones.

ECTRI and FERSI are now preparing the next Young Researchers Seminar which will take place in the Netherlands in end 2004, beginning 2005.

Best oral and written presentation award:

Jens Erik Nielsen from DTF : Taxation, time allocation and externalities

Two accessit awards :

Catherine Gabaude from INRETS : To accord mobility and safety issues for elderly drivers: considerations on driving competency assessment, a pilot study

Marco Diana from POLITO : Modelling versus simulation: two approaches for the assessment of the service quality – cost relationship in innovative public transport systems

The Board thanks very much the 14 tutors for their efforts

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ECTRI Strategic Vision

ECTRI has been created in order to fulfil what was perceived by its founding members (themselves leading European Transport Research Institutes and Organisations), as an overwhelming need for **concertation, coherence, and integration in European transport research**.

This perception of the needs and priorities for European transport in the coming decades, i.e. what we call the **«ECTRI' s vision of a safe, efficient, and cost effective intermodal surface transport system in the Europe of the future»** is our starting point even if transport complexity is today following more and more non linear innovation schemes.

The **long term vision** of ECTRI is **to create an European Virtual Transport Research Institute** supporting the creation of this single transport system and incorporating the strength and potential of all its members and utilizing their expertise and/or infrastructure in the different domains.

Within this overall vision, a number of more **specific «visions»** have been defined :

- 1) To help achieve **Integration of Transport Research** (starting with its members) primarily by effecting **common priorities** and programme of work, **mobility** of researchers, and working towards developing **Joint European research Infrastructures** in some key areas of Transport.
- 2) To provide an **independant «intellectual» dimension of advise** towards the research funding bodies National or the EU.
- 3) To promote **coordinated and high quality European - wide training** options, and **know-how transfer** in the field of Transport.

Next Events / News

- Next events :

- > **Brno Assembly and Board Meeting**—
4 and 5 March 2003

- > **EuroIndia 2004** : ECTRI has been invited by the European Commission and will be represented at EuroIndia from 24 to 26 March by our President and with a booth on the exhibition.

- > **ITS Budapest** : ECTRI will be represented at ITS Europe in Budapest, with a booth, from 24 to 26 May.

- News:

- > Printing of the French version of our Strategic Paper, available at the Secretariat

