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## Editorial



By Guy Bourgeois  
ECTRI President  
INRETS General Director

The ECTRI Assembly did me the honour of being elected as President during the Helsinki meeting on 22 November 2006. I took up my duties on 27 January 2007 and therefore today I have the pleasure of writing this editorial.

During the transition period, I went to the TRB Annual Session in Washington. This certainly is the best place to assess the work carried out by the ECTRI managing team since ECTRI was set up. The signature of our Memorandum of Understanding with TRB, just over a year ago now, already represented a major recognition. Indeed, from TRB's point of view, ECTRI had acquired the status of a privileged partner in less than three years. The 2007 TRB Annual Session showed us that an important step forward had been achieved in a year. An ECTRI-TRB roundtable was jointly organised, we looked into ways for ECTRI to act as a link for the calls for proposals in Europe as regards the SHRP 2 research programme.

We laid the ground for wider common actions for the 2008 Annual Session.

For us, European and ECTRI members, the American recognition symbolizes the success of the team who has conceived, then created and managed ECTRI during its first four years. I would particularly like to thank the out-going President, George Giannopoulos, for his enthusiasm, his diplomatic and communicating talents, and also Jean-Pierre Médevielle, our first Secretary General, for his unequalled knowledge of the Brussels machinery, his impressive network of contacts all around the world and his working capability. Together with their colleagues from the out-going Board, they managed to turn a generous idea into a reality that has today become essential.

Our warmest congratulations and sincere thanks to them.

After the setting-up stage, a consolidation stage is now beginning. The new Board began working efficiently in order to sustain the present dynamics. The first important decision made during the Berlin Assembly Meeting on 29 and 30 March was, considering the success of the Thematic Working Group A (TWG A on Urban Mobility),

the setting up of six new TWGs which we defined as incubators for new ideas and projects for the FP7:

- TWG A: Urban Mobility (existing group, extended to passengers intermodality)
- TWG B: Traffic Safety and Security
- TWG C: Energy and Climate change
- TWG D: Freight transport (including logistics, technology)
- TWG E: Intelligent Transport Systems and Intelligent Infrastructures
- TWG F: Mobility (socio-economic, demographic i.e. elderly and disabled people, policy aspects)
- TWG G: Transport Economics and Policy

These Thematic Working Groups will allow senior researchers from our institutes to better know each other and work together, with the view to harmonizing the development of the Transport European Research Area. No doubt that all over Europe, their outputs and outcomes shall be looked at with great interest.

## Board meetings in Brussels, Belgium

Two Board meetings took place in Brussels at the beginning of the year 2007. On January 11 the former Board, headed by the outgoing ECTRI Chairman George Giannopoulos of the Hellenic Institute of Transport, gathered for its final meeting, joined by the newly elected President and Secretary to allow a smooth transition.

After the Board meeting, ECTRI's past and new Chairmen, George Giannopoulos and Guy Bourgeois, Vice Chairman Josef Mikulik, the past and new Secretaries

General, Jean-Pierre Médevielle and Dietmar Wurzel, had a meeting with Mr Janez Potočnik, Commissioner for Science and Research, and Mr. Benoît Le Bret from the Cabinet of Mr. Barrot, Commissioner for Transport.

The new Board, elected for the 2007 to 2009 period and chaired by Guy Bourgeois of INRETS, convened for its first meeting on February 28. A heavy agenda was pursued; the topics included, among others, the proposal of a new fee structure and established new working groups. The findings

of the Board have been presented to the ECTRI members for decision at the Assembly meeting at the end of March in Berlin.



From left to right: Dietmar Wurzel; Eva Valle Lagares, Member of Cabinet; Commissioner Janez Potočnik; William Bird DG RTD; Josef Mikulik; Guy Bourgeois; George Giannopoulos.  
Photo: J-P. Medevielle

## Assembly meeting in Berlin, Germany

The most recent ECTRI Assembly meeting was held on 29 and 30 March 2007 in Berlin, Germany and was hosted by Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR).

During this meeting, some important decisions were taken. The ECTRI accounts for 2006, the Auditor reports as well as the Activities Report for 2006 were approved by the Assembly.

Another important decision taken during this Assembly was the setting-up of six new Thematic Working Groups (TWG) on the following subjects : Urban Mobility (this working group already existed but has been extended to passenger intermodality), Traffic Safety and Security, Energy and Climate change, Intelligent Transport Systems and Intelligent Infrastructures, Mobility, Transport Economics and Policy. All these

Thematic Working Groups will include sustainability concerns and issues related to the systems of the future.

The Assembly of members



## Facts and Figures

In the Fraunhofer Transport Alliance 19 Fraunhofer Institutes are combining their specific know-how within the area of transport-related research. Their products and services range from intelligent light weight construction systems, safety and security systems, efficient logistics structures and processes to innovative transportation systems. Like in the previous two years, the Fraunhofer Transport Alliance organised the "International Forum on Transportation" in Brussels to provide an insight into significant R&D topics at a European level. The Fraunhofer Transport Alliance

invited distinguished speakers from the European Commission, industry and researchers to share their views on results and prospects of transportation research. This year's "Third International Forum on Transportation" was focused on aviation industry and maritime transport; it took place on March 22, 2007 at the Representation of North Rhine-Westphalia to the EU in Brussels.

An election took place during the OECD/ECMT Joint Transport Research Committee meeting held on 20 and 21 March. Urban Karlstrom from VTI was

unanimously elected as new Chairman, Lazslo Ruppert from KTI was elected as Vice-Chairman and Jean-Pierre Médevielle as member of the Bureau.

The ECTRI Annual Report 2006 is now available and can be downloaded from the ECTRI website ([www.ectri.org](http://www.ectri.org)) under "Documents section".

The Young Researchers Seminar 2007 will be held in Brno, Czech Republic on 28 to 30 May. Information is regularly updated on : [www.ectri.org/yrs07.htm](http://www.ectri.org/yrs07.htm)

## ECTRI participation in TRB 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, January 21-25, 2007

**E**CTRI attended the TRB 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on 21 to 25 January 2007 in Washington, DC, USA.

The TRB Annual Meeting programme covered all transportation modes, with more than 2,800 presentations in 500 sessions addressing topics of interest to all attendees—policy makers, adminis-

trators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions. The spotlight theme for 2007 was "Transportation Institutions, Finance, and Workforce: Meeting the Needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".

TRB had organised the first ECTRI-TRB International Research Round-

table to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding and invited ECTRI members to participate in the International Reception.

ECTRI was also present with a booth at the exhibition at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

## US National Academies Transportation Research Board Awards for Josef Mikulik and Jean-Pierre Médevielle



*Josef Mikulik speaking during the International Reception*

**D**uring the International Participants' reception on Sun-

day 21 January 2007, Josef Mikulik, General Director of CDV and ECTRI Vice-Chairman, Jean-Pierre Médevielle, Deputy General Director of INRETS and former ECTRI Secretary General, were each awarded a "Certificate of Appreciation" for their involvement and participation in TRB international activities by Michael Meyer, Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology and Chair-

man of the Executive Board of the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies.



*Mike Meyer of US TRB congratulating Jean-Pierre Médevielle for the Certificate of Appreciation*

## ECTRI/TRB Roundtable

**T**he ECTRI—TRB Roundtable was held on 21 January 2007 in Washington, during the TRB Annual Meeting. ECTRI was represented by Guy Bourgeois (INRETS), Jean-Pierre Médevielle

(INRETS), Caroline Alméras (ECTRI), Joris Al (AVV), Cristina Pronello (POLITO), Richard Van der Horst (TNO), Neil Paulley (TRL), Barbara Lenz (DLR), Andrès Monzon (UPM), Alberto Compte (CEDEX), Rune El-

vik (TØI) and Josef Mikulik (CDV). A status report of the ECTRI-TRB Action Plan was presented both during the Roundtable and the International Activity Committee (23 January 2007).

## TRB Exhibition at Marriot Wardmann Park Hotel

**T**he TRB exhibition is an extension of the Annual Meeting educational programme. Located at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, the exhibits complement the formal sessions and provide a variety of opportunities for information sharing and interaction.

ECTRI hired a booth at the exhibition where both information on our members and activities related to transport research were provided. Leaflets and brochures were avail-

able and this occasion also gave the opportunity of meeting the ECTRI staff.



*ECTRI booth at TRB Annual Meeting 2007*



*Bob Skinner of US TRB visiting the ECTRI booth*



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## NET-TRACK News

« **NETworking Transport ReseArch resources, Competencies and Knowledge within the new boundaries of European research area** »

The Workpackage 3 of the project made up of DLR (leader), ECTRI Secretariat, CDV and VTI is currently in charge of organising the second Workshop dealing with Soft Research Infrastructures.

This workshop, originally scheduled on 22 and 23 March, is postponed to 7

and 8 June in Ljubljana, Slovenia, at the Grand Hotel Union.

The invitation will soon be sent to the targeted people and the programme available.

We remind that the NET-TRACK project (SSA funded by FP6) aims at encouraging the exchange of knowl-

edge with NMS, AC and WBC in specific research transportation issues.

Information can be found on the project website:

<http://www.ectri.org/nettrack>

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## EURFORUM PROJECT

« **European Research Forum for Urban Mobility** »

In 2007, selected stakeholders are invited to join two plenary sessions, where the proposed Strategic Research Agenda for Urban Mobility will be validated.

The first plenary session with stakeholders took place on 28 February 2007 in Brussels. The State of the Art report was presented and discussed on this occasion. It is available on the website ([www.eurforum.net](http://www.eurforum.net)).

We remind that an open consultation is also avail-

able on the Eurforum website. This Internet Forum allows registered stakeholders to put forward any ideas, suggestions or critiques on the current state of the urban mobility research at a European level and the future research needs in this field. The Eurforum team will take these inputs into consideration when formulating its Strategic Research Agenda.

The second plenary session is scheduled in June 2007.

The draft Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of

which ECTRI is in charge, now well advanced, will be officially released during this session.

The ECTRI Working Group A on Urban Mobility and the ECTRI community are regularly informed on the progress of the project and have been invited to register on the online forum to give their opinion.

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## EUROACCESS PROJECT\*

« **For a European Accessibility of public Transport for people with disabilities** »

The EUROACCESS project kick-off meeting took place on 5 and 6 February 2007 at the INRETS Bron centre, France, where some important issues were

presented, such as the work plan, the management, scientific and communication issues. This meeting was also the occasion for the project partners to meet each other.

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\* We remind that EUROACCESS is a SSA funded by FP6, supported by ECTRI which also promoted its preparation.

## Next Events

- Next Assembly meeting
  - > Bratislava, Slovakia, 12 and 13 November 2007
- Next Board meetings
  - > Paris, France, 16 May 2007
  - > Bratislava, Slovakia, 12 and 13 November 2007