

Brussels, October 11th, 2013

The European Conference of Transport Research Institutes (ECTRI) celebrated its 10th Anniversary

On the evening of October 8th, the European Conference of Transport Research Institutes (ECTRI), the European Association of major research establishments devoted to multimodal transport research, celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a special Event organized in Brussels, Belgium.

The event, took place at the Renaissance Hotel, Brussels, and was attended by a select audience of more than 100 high level representatives from all sectors of European transport: major academic and industrial transport related Organisations, the European Commission, ECTRI members and associated or cooperating organisations.



The formal part of the event contained a number of speeches from a select number of personalities who stressed the importance and useful role of ECTRI in European transport research and at the same time found the opportunity to present their own thoughts as well as the plans and policies of their Organisations for the coming years.



First spoke the ECTRI President, Professor **George A. Giannopoulos**, Director of the Hellenic Institute of Transport, who presented ECTRI's achievements in these 10 years of serving the European transport research and policy. He underlined, that major highlights were: the base line scientific work done by the many ECTRI Thematic

working Groups in several scientific fields and the corresponding more than 40 position papers and interventions that ECTRI has put forward all these years in key issues facing European Transport; the setting up and running on a regular basis of specific training workshops and courses for young researchers; the creation and continuous support of a major scientific journal in the field of Transport (the *European Transport Research Review*); the promotion of international cooperation and European transport know how and research results globally; and many others. He was followed by a short "testimony" speech by one researcher from one of ECTRI's members Dr **Ariane Dupont-Kieffer**, senior researcher at the French Transport research Institute IFSTTAR. She gave a "researcher's view of ECTRI and its role in the development and enrichment of her research career.

Four distinguished personalities from prominent organisations related to ECTRI's activities responded with some visionary thoughts and comments:

Mr. **Fotis Karamitsos**, Acting Deputy Director General, at the European Commission / DG MOVE, presented his compliments and spoke of the influence of research and innovation for future transport policy; he stressed the fact that the current European Transport Policy that was unveiled in 2011, has as its cornerstone implementation mechanism the research and innovation production that comes from



From left to right: F. Karamitsos, G. Giannopoulos, M. Soares, R. Skinner, S. Perkins, A. Dupont-Kieffer, N. Paulley

the various National and international research programmes in Europe as well as of course the Commission's own research

programme Horizon 2020. Then, Mrs. **Manuela Soares**, Director for Transport at the European Commission / DG RDI, acknowledged a number of major achievements and contributions of ECTRI and outlined the perspectives of Transport research in the new European programmes for research and innovation. She said that as much as 8.2 billion Euros of EU funding are foreseen over the next seven years for Transport research and urged ECTRI and its members to take up the opportunity and utilize these funds for more excellence and European innovation production. The third guest speaker was Mr. **Robert Skinner**, executive Director of the Transportation Research Board of the US National Academies. He stressed the interest of his Organisation for cooperation with ECTRI and European Transport researchers in general, and pledged his support for future actions and initiatives that will further promote US-EU cooperation in the field of Transport. He mentioned that the recent implementation agreement signed between the US/DoT and the EU Commission for common actions in the field of Transport has started implementation with a first major workshop in Washington DC in May 2013 and will continue with similar activities in the future. Lastly Mr. **Stephen Perkins**, Head of Research, International Transport Forum, OECD, spoke of the major challenges to be faced in the field of Transport by 2050. He stressed the important role to be played by "intelligence" that will be impeded in all forms of transport – especially the infrastructure and the vehicle- and cautioned that the "de-carbonization" policies will need substantial funds and investments in order to be effective. As car ownership and social habits will change in the future their impact on transport levels and characteristics must clearly be studied and prevented. The last speaker was ECTRI's Vice-President, Professor **Neil Paulley** who presented the vision of ECTRI for the future and stressed the need for closer cooperation and more forward thinking research focused on solving key policy challenges.

The formal part of the event was followed by a reception and buffet dinner which lasted late in the evening allowing for networking and exchanges between attendants in a nice and relaxed atmosphere.

About ECTRI

ECTRI is an Association registered under Belgian law and based in Brussels. It was founded in April 2003 in Lyon, France, as an international non-profit Association under French law. It includes as Members 25 major transport research Organisations from 19 European countries, employing collectively more than 4000 European transport related scientists and researchers. ECTRI's vision for the future is for: "an efficient and integrated European transport system that provides green, safe, efficient and inclusive transport for people and goods and utilising effectively all modes of transport".

Contact

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