

MINUTES of the 63rd GENERAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

4th – 5th March 2016, Madrid, Spain

PARTICIPANTS:

Executive Board (National Delegate = ND):

<i>Surname, First name</i>	<i>ND</i>	<i>Member Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>
Szymczak, Włodzimierz	President	Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Poland
Branco, Fernando	Immediate Past President	Ordem dos Engenheiros	Portugal
Mariani, Massimo	President - Elect, Vice-President	Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri	Italy
Geme, Vija	Honorary Treasurer, Vice - President	1 st ND Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Natchev, Dimitar	Member	1 st ND Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Saez, Jose Francisco	Member	1 st ND Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
Humar, Gorazd	Member	2 nd ND Slovenian Chamber of Engineers	Slovenia
Karanasiou, Maria	General Secretary	-	Greece

National Delegates (NDs) and Other Participants from Member Organizations:

Surname	Name	Position	Organization	Country
Thurriedl	Klaus	Invited Ass 1 st Delegate	Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants	Austria
Simeonov	Georgi	2 nd ND	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Sever	Zvonimir	1 st ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
Paska	Ivan	2 nd ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
Dimitriou	Georgios	1 st ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Stylianou	Platonas	2 nd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Kutruza	Bora	3 rd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Aysal	Seran	4 th ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Materna	Alois	1 st ND	Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians	Czech Republic
Piirsalu	Andres	1 st ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Ruben	Tiia	2 nd ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Abdelhamid	Marwan	Invited Ass 1 st Delegate	World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) Past President	France
Delaporte	Brice	1 st D AM	Society of Engineers and Scientists of France	France
Bediashvili	Malkhaz	1 st ND	Georgian Society of Civil Engineers	Georgia
Ahrens	Carsten	SC Chair	Institute of German Engineers	Germany
Pilzer	Thomas	1 st D AM	Institute of German Engineers	Germany
Pertzinidis	Ilias	1 st ND	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Chatzidakis	Aristodimos	2 nd ND	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Szollossy	Gabor	1 st ND	Hungarian Chamber of Engineers	Hungary
Monda	Nicola	1 st ND	Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri	Italy
Hendrikson	Helena	2 nd ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Kurlys	Kestutis	1 st ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Cepulis	Audrius	2 nd ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Borg	Ruben Paul	1 st ND and SC Chair	Chamber of Architects & Civil Engineers of Malta	Malta
Gonzalez Fernandez	Alfonso Alberto	Invited Ass 1 st Delegate	World Council of Civil Engineers (President)	Mexico
Meyer	Zygmunt	1 st ND	Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Poland
Santos	Luis Oliveira	1 st ND	Order of Engineers	Portugal
Manoliu	Iacint	SC Chair	EUCEET Association	Romania

Bitca	Daniel	1 st ND	Romanian Association of Civil Engineers	Romania
Jovanovic	Ranka	1 st ND	Serbian Chamber of Engineers	Serbia
Moravcik	Lubos	1 st ND	Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovakia
Zadnik	Branko	1 st ND	Slovenian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovenia
Colon	Emilio	Invited Ass 2 nd Delegate	World Council of Civil Engineers	Spain
Tankut	Tugrul	1 st ND	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Harris	Sean	1 st ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK
Baveystock	Nick	2 nd ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK
Nadkarni	Govind	Invited Ass 1 st Delegate	Texas Board of Professional Engineers	United States
Kinney	Lance	Invited Ass 2 nd Delegate	Texas Board of Professional Engineers	United States
Balli Urrutia	Lamberto Jose	Invited Ass 3 rd Delegate	Texas Board of Professional Engineers	United States

Apologies:

Surname, First name / Member Organization

Djuranovic, Nebojsa

Lachinov, Mikhail

Country

Montenegro

Russia

Friday 4th March 2016

1. Opening of the Meeting

ECCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak, opened the 63rd ECCE General Meeting thanking and welcoming everyone who joined our Meeting in Madrid. He addressed a special welcome to guests that joined our meeting for the first time and to guests from Invited Associations. He thanked our host in Madrid, the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos and especially the CICCPC President Santamera and the President of the Spanish Association of Civil Engineers Vicent Esteban for organizing a week for Civil Engineers starting with the 7th Iberian Speaking countries meetings, then the International Congress of Civil Engineering and closing with the 63rd ECCE General Meeting. In his speech, ECCE President stressed that this meeting is a starting point of a new era for ECCE as the implementation of its new strategy commences. He requested that everybody participates in the open discussion about the new strategy as individuals and as members of their National Organizations and that everyone puts their energy and effort in taking ECCE forward to a better and higher place in the European community of Civil Engineers.

After the opening of the meeting, President Vincent Esteban addressed a welcome speech. He referred to the Madrid Declaration that was signed the day before at the end of the International Congress of Civil Engineering by CICCPC, CICPC-CEPC, ECCE and WCCE. The **Madrid Declaration** was a message to all Civil Engineers worldwide, the Civil Engineers committed to UN's objectives of sustainable development and climate action.

2. Introduction of ECCE Members

After the speech of President Esteban the introduction of the ECCE Members that participated in the General Meeting followed. All the representatives of the Full and Associate ECCE Members presented themselves and the delegation of their organization to ECCE.

3. Introduction and acceptance of New ECCE Members

ECCE General Secretary presented the application of Ukraine to become an ECCE Full Member. The Association "Information Technology in Construction of Ukraine" (UACIT) sent their application a few months ago and after consultation with the President of the Union of Scientific and Engineering Associations of Ukraine Nikolay Kirjukhin and with the GSCE President Iuri Svanidze, we concluded that UACIT is the organization that better represents the Civil Engineers in Ukraine. The acceptance of UACIT as an ECCE Full Member was put to voting.

Resolution 63.1:

The Association "Information Technology in Construction of Ukraine" (UACIT) was unanimously accepted as ECCE Full Member.

4. 62nd ECCE General Meeting minutes approval

Resolution 63.2:

The Minutes of the 62nd ECCE General Meeting in Prague were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

The minutes of the 62nd ECCE General Meeting can be found [here](#).

5. ECCE brief activity report since November 2015

ECCE President presented the ECCE brief activity report since November 2015. The presentation can be found [here](#).

During the presentation of the activity report ECCE President referred to the ongoing negotiations with the Austrian Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineers to join ECCE. Klaus Thurriedl who is the President for the Chartered Engineers section of the Chamber took the floor and gave a short description of the progress on this topic. He mentioned that the section of the Chartered Engineers that comprises Civil Engineers would become ECCE member. The only problem is the subscription fee which they find quite high. He mentioned that the fee they pay in ECEC is lower and all kinds of Engineers are represented there, whereas in the case of ECCE only the Civil Engineers will be represented and this is a problem to explain to their members. However, he said that he is sure a solution will be found.

6. Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries presentation

At this point Mr. Nicola Monda, Secretary General of the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC) presented the EAMC. He said that 2 years ago a meeting was organized in Lecce, Italy promoted by CNI and himself to set up a network among Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries. The formation of EAMC with the assistance of WFEO and personally of its President at that time Marwan Abdelhamid was the outcome of this meeting. At the moment EAMC has a statute and its members are National Engineer Organizations from the Mediterranean countries but not only Civil. In their statute they allow also Engineering Federations of the area to join in as members. Nicola Monda explained that the Federation of Arab Engineers which is very important in the Arab region became a member and Nicola Monda suggested that one of the European Association could be also member of EAMC. ECCE supported and joined from the beginning this initiative with Vassilis Economopoulos as its representative. At the moment EAMC has set up 4 Technical Committees, two of which are chaired by people from the European region and two by people from the Arab region. Nicola Monda thanked ECCE for supporting this initiative and announced the next meeting of the EAMC that will be held on 7-9 May, in Cairo, Egypt.

Resolution 63.3:

The membership of the ECCE to the EAMC with the status of observer was voted unanimously by the ECCE General Assembly.

Mr. Aris Chatzidakis was appointed as ECCE representative to the EAMC by the ECCE President.

7. ECCE individual membership and ECCE Card

Fernando Branco said that the card has taken shape and now we need to make it alive. He said that the previous months we dealt with technical issues of the card mainly and presented the version of the card that is almost at its final shape. He explained one main change that was introduced by the ECCE ExBo the previous day regarding the Civil Engineering Degrees part on the back side of the card. Instead of having fixed choices of the degrees we will have eight blank lines where each member shall indicate the type of the degree, the years of duration of the degree, the year of acquisition of the degree and in the line underneath the University. Each member shall enter up to four degrees due to space limitations. Then Fernando Branco explained what the procedure of getting an ECCE card and becoming ECCE Individual Member will be. In the beginning the civil engineers that can apply to become ECCE Individual Members should come from the countries that are ECCE Members. In a second step we could open the membership to any person that is a civil engineer but not yet. So, for now a person that wants to become ECCE member and belongs to an Association that is ECCE member can apply directly to ECCE or through his National Association. The application consists of the following documents:

- Registration Form
- Data Sheet Form (excel sheet)

- Photograph
- Payment Form
- ECCE Member Declaration

The last document is the one that proves that the person applying for an ECCE Card is a Civil Engineer. This fact could be proved with two ways. If a person belongs to a national association and he has his own card showing that he is a civil engineer, then he just needs to send us a copy of this card. If not, we ask for a declaration from the ECCE Member organization saying that this person is a member of this organization and that he is a civil engineer.

Zygmunt Meyer (Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers) said that in the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers they have 150.00 Civil Engineers and every year some of them leave and other join the PCCE, so there is a movement and what is the way for them to keep it under control. Fernando Branco said that all we want is that at the moment of the application the PCCE checks and confirms if the applicant is a Civil Engineer member of PCCE.

Bora Kutruza (Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers) asked if the local chambers have to send every year a report with their members to ECCE and what happens when someone applies directly to ECCE. Fernando Branco said that if a person applies directly to ECCE he has to go through his national chamber anyway as he needs to bring a declaration from his chamber that he is a Civil Engineer. He can either get this declaration and send it to ECCE or ask the chamber to send to ECCE the proof that he is a civil engineer.

Sean Harris (ICE) asked what happens in case that someone has acquired the ECCE card that proofs that he is a practicing civil engineer and the next year he no longer is a member of ICE. Do they have to report this to ECCE? How would this work? Fernando Branco said that if this person pays the fee to ECCE can renew and keep the ECCE card even if he is no longer ICE member because what we need to know is that this person is a civil engineer and it is not obligatory to be ICE member too. Sean Harris said that the slight difference for them is that in order for a person to be a practicing civil engineer in the UK he has to be registered to the Engineering Council and pay the fee. If he stops doing that they don't recognize him as a civil engineer because it is not the qualification that they recognize but the efficiency. Fernando Branco asked if the ICE is made aware of the fact that a person is no longer a civil engineer in the UK according to their requirements. Sean Harris said that yes they are. Fernando Branco said that in this case they need to inform us because what we say with this card is that the card holder is a civil engineer and if ICE says that he is not a civil engineer then we need to know it. Sean Harris said that the problem is if a person with this card is considered a European civil engineer and can work everywhere in Europe without anyone controlling it. Fernando Branco explained that this card is not a professional card but a membership card. This card is the consequence of the changes in our Articles of Association that allow the membership to individuals with a status similar to Associate Membership.

Iacint Manoliu asked what is going to happen with the organizations that are Associate Members of ECCE like Romanian Association of Civil Engineers. Will members from RACE be allowed to become ECCE individual members and obtain the ECCE card or not? Fernando Branco said that as a first step we will accept only applications from people who belong to Full ECCE Members. Iacint Manoliu said that the two Associate Members (France, Romania) that are organizations of Civil Engineers and not companies or Universities should be accepted too. Jose Francisco Saez Rubio commented that this is not the final stage of the card and at this point the decision that the ExBo took to limit the membership to ECCE Full Members only is because we were trying to work out how to implement this type of product card to be able to make it extensive and have the correct check for the competent authorities. We don't want to limit the membership of civil engineers but in a first step we have to start from the full ECCE members, which is the safest way.

Aris Chatzidakis asked if information about experience of a civil engineer will be indicated somehow in this card. Fernando Branco replied that no, experience will not be indicated.

Branko Zadnik asked if we have taken into account any opinion or judgement about this card. Fernando Branco said that several countries showed their interest about this type of card but we didn't make any market survey.

Helena Endriksone that if she understand correctly this is the first step for the ECCE Card but she wondered what about a Professional Card, as some years ago we discussed about it. What are the future plans? Fernando Branco said that the Professional Card doesn't come from ECCE but it comes from the EU. In order for such card to be implemented we must have an agreement among National Chambers and an informatics system where all the information for engineers of each chamber is saved. So, that does not depend on ECCE but on the National Chambers.

Sean Harris asked what the function of the membership card is. Fernando said that this is something a members' club card. JFSR said that one of the things that could be implemented later is regarding acquiring proof of qualification from the National Chambers in the process of temporal licensure. One of the problems that have to be

addressed is when you need to issue a certificate from a Chamber in another language and this could make a difference in reducing paperwork. This information would remain within the standard of IMI.

Aris Chatzidakis suggested that this procedure should go through the National Associations because it will be a motivation to strengthening the link between ECCE and the National Associations. FB replied that what he suggested is that people can apply directly to the National Associations to obtain the ECCE Card and become ECCE members and the National Association will get a percentage of the subscription fee. Aris Chatzidakis said that main characteristic of this Card is that it shows the status of civil engineering. He suggested that this card is accompanied with a booklet which says what civil engineering is and maybe with some other materials.

Fernando Branco talked about the annual fees that a person must pay in order to become ECCE member and obtain the ECCE card. The proposal of the ExBo was an annual fee of 55 Euros and if one subscribes for 5 years they get a discount so the fee would be 250 Euros for 5 years and they also get a free copy of our latest edition "Footbridges – Small is beautiful". Also, people that are over 65 years they pay once to obtain the card and become ECCE members. 20% of the amount of the fees would be given to the national organization. The production cost of the card (just preparation and printing) would be around 5 Euros.

Sean Harris asked what you get for the 55 Euros you pay, what services you get. Fernando Branco said that you become a member of ECCE, so you can come to the General Meetings, to the Conferences, you receive our newsletter and you do all what ECCE members do apart from having voting rights.

Platonas Stylianou said that it is very important to know what the benefits of becoming an ECCE individual member would be as they will have to advertise it and sell it to their associations' members and they will have to justify the membership and the membership fee.

Tugrul Tankut asked if there is any demand for such a card and Fernando said that there is demand from several members.

Carsten Ahrens said that it would be a good idea together with the card to reissue the book edition of ECCE of 2005 about the Civil Engineering profession in Europe. Fernando said that Aris Chatzidakis had the same idea and it is a good one.

Ivan Paska asked if the individual membership will be obligatory and Fernando replied that it won't. Ivan Paska said that he doesn't see the benefit of individual membership. The member organizations can contribute to the promotion and evolvement of the civil engineering profession but as an individual it is not possible. The only tangible benefit that he would see is to have a public list on our website with the person that are individual members, which adds some value. Fernando Branco said that the main concept is to allow individuals to become members of our "club" if we consider ourselves as a club. So, the value of being an ECCE member is the value of being member of this club. Ivan Paska asked if in 6 months only a small percentage becomes ECCE individual member and gets the card, will this diminish the value of the card. He said that he is not against this initiative but he tries to understand how they should convince their members to join ECCE as individuals. He also added that they have difficulties convincing their members to pay the subscription fee to their Chamber which is obligatory and he thinks it will be too difficult to pay this amount for ECCE membership which is optional.

George Demetriou said that we must also discuss what we will do with the income that we will have from this initiative and he said that an idea would be to use the money to increase the benefits that the members will receive, such as new edition, etc.

Gorazd Humar asked if the suggested amount includes VAT or not but Fernando said that because it is an amount for subscription fees it does not have VAT as we are not selling the card.

Aris Chatzidakis said that if we implement this initiative then the results will show if such membership and card is appreciated and useful for individuals, but he thinks that the fees are too high for something that has not yet proved its value and it is at such an early level. Aris Chatzidakis said that 20 Euros per year would be more reasonable.

Ruben Paul Borg that the important thing in this initiative is the Associate Membership in an organization such as ECCE and the purpose of becoming a member, and that this aspect we should promote and focus on before going to the physical output which is the card.

Zygmunt Meyer said that if we call this membership card European Civil Engineering card, we are in trouble as in the Universities there are student courses named European Civil Engineering and the diploma gives the title "European Civil Engineer". Fernando Branco said that we are not giving a title with this card. The card will be an ECCE membership card and the title that will appear on the card will be according to the chamber and the studies of each card holder.

Ivan Paska suggested that 10 Euros would be reasonable price for the membership and the card and also that a list of the individual members should be published on the ECCE website and be updated every year.

Then, a voting for the idea of the ECCE Individual Membership and ECCE Card took place.

Resolution 63.4:

The majority of the ECCE General Assembly voted for the continuation of the initiative of the ECCE Individual Membership and the ECCE Card.

Institution of Civil Engineers (UK) and Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers (Poland) voted against.

Introduction of the ECCE card will be voluntary and at the discretion of each country.

Immediately after that a second voting regarding the annual subscription fee took place. The three suggestions and the voting results are the following:

- 55€ per year and 250€ for 5 year subscription (6 votes)
- 20€ per year (6 votes)
- 10€ per year (2 votes)

As there was a tie, a second round of voting took place between the two options and the results are the following:

- 55€ per year and 250€ for 5 year subscription (6 votes)
- 20€ per year (10 votes)

Resolution 63.5:

The annual subscription fees in order for an individual to become ECCE Member with the status of Associate Member will be 20€ per year.

8. Georgian Society of Civil Engineers – Seismic isolation systems

At this point Mr. Malkhaz Bediashvili, Vice President of the Georgian Society of Civil Engineers took the floor and gave a short speech regarding the seismic isolation system that the GSCE introduced one year ago in Naples. The speech is as follows:

“Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me welcome you on behalf of Iuri Svanidze, President of the Georgian Organization of Civil Engineers and Organization itself and wish you success in work. I would like to thank you for admitting your readiness to implement seismic-isolation of buildings in Georgia in resolution part of 61st General Assembly.

Currently, I have brought the letter of the Mayor of Tbilisi capital, showing his gratefulness and readiness to actively get involved in protecting the valuable materials and people from catastrophic earthquake.

We hope that Mr. Massimo Mariani will still be in charge of this noble activity and will be of effective assistance to our management and us.

I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Gorazd Humar and Milan Zacheki for providing information about seismic isolation systems.

We got acquainted with Madrid Declaration, which we totally agree with and we want to emphasize the fact, that the document needs further specification, for example, through the whole document, there is only one page dedicated to seismic. Despite the fact, that earthquakes take thousands of lives and cause millions of loss to humanity yearly.

How can we save existing buildings such as: Kindergartens, schools, hospitals etc.?

We have to use seismic isolation systems and produce the new constructions by means of seismic protection. That is why our advice would be to include the issue about seismic protection in ECCE strategy.”

9. Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations

Jose Francisco Saez Rubio gave a brief update regarding the last rounds of the TTIP negotiations. The last round was held in the end of February, in Brussels. There is some news regarding the elements of the potential discussion for including any type of professional recognition or mobility under the aegis of the Free Trade Agreement of the TTIP. If we recall our last meeting, we were at a point where there was not enough leverage by member countries and institutions to bring to the table of TTIP negotiations the facts of professional services in engineering. JFSR said that thankfully, through several contacts we were able to engage with one of the most active licensing boards in the US, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers which has also the most predominant international action regarding professional mobility and experience regarding Mutual Recognition Agreements. The latest news is that somehow the US Trade Office has accepted to bring to the table together with the EU negotiating team the possibility of addressing professional engineering services on the basis of temporal licensure. So, somehow this is a success because we are bringing up on the table a topic that wasn't in the Agenda in the last months.

Govind Nadkarni took the floor. He is the past Chairman of the Engineering Licensing Board for the State of Texas and also past Board Member of the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors in the US. He said that Texas has been more active in the mobility of licensure and they have MRAs with Australia, Canada, Japan, etc. He clarified that these agreements are only with the State of Texas and not with any other State in the US. Every State in the US has its own laws for licensure and if you get a license in one State it doesn't mean that get a license in another State automatically. You have to go through a process to obtain a license in another State. NCWS has come out and set up what they call a database where you can submit all your paperwork; when you graduated, what your syllabus was when you graduated, when you took your exams, etc. All that information goes into that database and that database can be passed to each State to get your mobility to different States. Each State may have a different requirement mainly about the Lifelong Learning basis (Continuing Education).

Spain approached them and said that they would like to have an MRA eventually with Texas and so they started discussions. But they have other licensure agreements with other countries that he mentioned earlier which are mainly based on the Free Trade Agreement. At that time there is no Free Trade Agreement or the language for the engineering side of it between European countries and US. JFSR mentioned the previous day that there is a possibility that this Agreement will be signed between US and the European countries and if that happens it makes it more probable to get that Agreement going with the European countries. One other thing that he would come out and say is Texas has not only civil engineers as licensure situation, Texas Board of Professional Engineers provides licensure for all kinds of engineering and they have 9 Board Members on their licensing Board that are appointed by the government of the State of Texas. Out of 9, 6 are professional engineers and 3 are the public members. Public members look for the interest of the general public and the other members. If an Agreement is signed with the European countries it should be not only for civil engineers but for all engineering disciplines. Based on it, it would make it easier if TTIP agreement happens. He said that Texas is a very open State in the US and they are very active on this field and want to make things go forward.

Carsten Ahrens said that he was a little bit astonished for the offer to cooperate in this way because he thinks that one of the leaders is the Washington Accord and every student needs to go through this and follow the demands for education. He said that for example in Germany they have a very strong accreditation agency and they did a very good job all over the world to enter the Washington Accord but nothing happened, so if Texas is in front of all these States that want to have this connection and cooperation it would be great. But, he said that he has the feeling and the fear that it is difficult for all our ECCE members to go this way. Govind Nadkarni said that he is right and that the Agreement that they will sign with Korea is based on the Washington Accord. Lans Kinney, Executive Director of the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, said that in Texas they have the flexibility to use the Washington Accord or essentially in their Law to look at the educational requirements and see if they are sufficiently equivalent, so they have the flexibility to do that on a case by case basis. So, they've used different formats and Washington Accord of course makes it easier as it is a large agreement, but the can look at the case individually. Govind Nadkarni added that apart from Texas only some bordering States with Canada have started doing such agreements following Texas example. In Texas their agreements with other countries is a one year temporal licensure because their requirement is 3 E, which is Education, Experience and Examinations, in this particular case they give them the temporal licensure without them taking the examination and they renew this licensure for three years and within these three years you can take the examination and take the permanent licensure. In their agreement with Japan they have agreed that people can enter after having taken the examination which means that they can take directly the permanent licensure.

Zygmunt Meyer said that it seems to him that we are able now to put forward an idea how to respect and recognize the education from European countries in the US and it seems to be possible to make it quite quickly in this way but we are not able to agree upon this within EU. Fernando Branco said that in EU we have this concept with temporary license and it works. But it is for one year and you only get it if you have a specific project in this country.

10. European Year of Civil Engineering in 2017-2018

Zygmunt Meyer took the floor and announced a proposal on behalf of the President of the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers, Mr. Dobrucki. In 2017 the Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers will celebrate its 15th Anniversary and they are prepared to spend certain money for this and celebrate it in a proper way. But in this case it would be very good if we could combine this event with some international events such as hosting the ECCE General Meeting in Warsaw and hosting also the ECEC General Meeting or any other organization. We could even introduce a "Warsaw Declaration" at that time on a certain subject and what is essential is that it would be very good if we could combine it together with the European Year of Civil Engineering (or Engineering) and in this case everything could start in the month November 2017 and can last until the end of the year 2018. Starting from Warsaw the Year could be continued in other countries, maybe in Brussels with the Day of Engineers and other events in order to bring closer to not only politicians but also to all the citizens the role that the Civil Engineers play in the whole social and cultural development.

ECCE President said that this idea was brought by the PCCE President Dobrucki more than a year ago during our 60th ECCE General Assembly in Warsaw. After this, during his visit in London to ICE in a meeting with Nick Baveystock they agreed that if ECCE decides to organize a European Year of Civil Engineering, we could combine this initiative with the Year of Civil Engineers that is already fixed for UK for 2018. So, we can put all these ideas together and start this Year a little bit earlier in November 2017 for example in Warsaw and finish in Brussels in autumn 2018. ECCE President said that he thinks that this would be a very good and useful initiative with a chain of events throughout Europe.

He asked the General Assembly for acceptance of this idea so that we can start working on it and prepare a proposal.

Resolution 63.6:

The idea of preparation of a proposal regarding the organization of the European Year of Civil Engineering starting from November 2017, in Warsaw and throughout 2018 was unanimously accepted by the ECCE General Assembly.

George Demetriou said that they have proposed to fix a date of celebrating Civil Engineers Day in Europe each year and he was wondering about the progress on this subject.

Zygmunt Meyer said that we could start from the Year and then fix a date as Civil Engineers Day that would come as a result of the Declaration in Warsaw.

11. Closing reports of ECCE Standing Committees

Standing Committee Environment & Sustainability

Prof. Carsten Ahrens, Chairman of the SC E&S presented his closing report which can be found [here](#).

Standing Committee Education & Training

Prof. Iacint Manoliu, Chairman of the SC E&T presented his closing report which can be found [here](#).

Standing Committee Knowledge & Technology

Prof. Ruben Paul Borg, Chairman of the SC K&T presented his closing report which can be found [here](#).

Standing Committee Associate Membership

Mr. Bora Kutruza, Vice Chairman of the SC AM said that this was the youngest SC established by the initiative by late Vassilis Economopoulos during the 56th ECCE GM in Dubrovnik. He was offered the Vice Chairman position of the SC AM in the 57th ECCE General Meeting, in Lisbon. He said that the main idea behind establishing the SC AM was to attract new Associate Members especially from the private sector which would provide extra revenue for ECCE. Bora Kutruza said that this was a very new SC and they didn't manage to achieve all the goals they had set due to time constraints. Throughout these 3 years of operation of the SC AM most of the workload was carried out

Minutes of the 63rd General Meeting of the European Council of Civil Engineers

by Vassilis Economopoulos. Meanwhile, Bora Kutruza personally tried to contact with some private construction companies mostly in the Turkish market to attract them to ECCE but despite the ongoing correspondence no decision was yet finalized. He concluded that as we are going towards restructuring and reorganizing within ECCE he thinks that the idea of Associate Membership should be continued and carried out in maybe some other form because as we have more Associate Members from the private sector.

Standing Committee Development & Business Environment

Aris Chatzidakis said that the title of this SC is very wide and so it could have covered the Mutual Recognition and the Directive story in this SC but this matter was treated separately. The SC D&BE of course followed the various steps of this big story. He said that all these years he has been Vice Chairman of the SC under Karlheinz Zachmann and after his retirement under Hamish Douglas. Aris said that all these years the main information came through Karlheinz who was very active during the first years as he had contacts with the people in the European Commission and knew the bureaucracy in EU. But after a few years that he had no longer connections and access in the European Commission he mainly transferred the information that was gathered by the European Construction Forum (ECF) as he participated in their meetings as ECCE representative. Aris stressed that ECF is a very important body related to the construction sector and he thinks that ECCE might have underestimated its importance. The Architects (ACE) is very active in ECF and the leading organization is FIEC. He said that the only important market that was discussed in ECF and that ECCE was involved is the High Level Tripartite Forum for the strategy for the construction sector where Fernando Branco has been representing ECCE. A lot of important things were discussed there such as "Renovate Europe" initiative, the "Connecting Europe Facility", etc. where ECCE was not involved at all. He believes that in future ECCE should be represented adequately in ECF by a civil engineer and get involved and play a role in this organization. Other matters that were discussed in the SC D&BE during these years were the Public Procurement Directive and the effort to homogenize the construction liability throughout European countries which is a very important matter and still on the table. One more issue that is interesting and important for our profession which we need to pay attention to in the future is the circular economy and its implication in the construction industry because waste management and construction waste is very serious. FIEC has also put the question of who pays the cost for the construction waste management which is now a very serious matter in all the countries. Also, the new generation of Eurocodes is another matter that needs to be discussed and the new aspects of essential requirements.

Task Force Civil Engineering Heritage

Gorazd Humar spoke about the three projects that the Civil Engineering Heritage Task Force has realized over these years. The first one that this Task Force was involved was the International Conference about Seismic protection of cultural heritage that was held in Antalya in Turkey organized together with ECCE, WCCE and TCCE. It was a successful Conference giving some guidelines on conservation and protection of cultural heritage. The second project was the book "Civil Engineering Heritage in Europe" presenting most interesting projects realized even in the past in Europe where most of the ECCE members were involved. This was a really huge project and it showed what the civil engineering science is capable of. The second book "Footbridges – small is beautiful" was a presentation of about 200 footbridges within Europe and 16 in Japan and was kind of continuation of the first book. Gorazd Humar said that he is very glad that all ECCE Members contributed to the books projects. He thanked all ECCE Members and the ExBo for their support all these years and concluded hoping that the spirit of conservation of the cultural heritage will remain in ECCE.

Closing report of the TF CEH can be found [here](#).

12. New ECCE Strategy

ECCE President described briefly the New ECCE Strategy which consists of two parts. The first part is cancelling the existing substructure of ECCE (SCs and TF) and founding our future activities and production of Position Papers representing the views of Civil Engineers in matters related to our profession, industry and academia. The second part is establishing a representation of ECCE in Brussels so that we can deliver our Position Papers to the right persons and decision makers in Brussels. Our representative in Brussels will be also in charge of keeping an eye on the progress of the submitted PPs and arranging meetings with the proper persons. He stressed that we have to be oriented towards achieving specific goals. The PPs do not have only one purpose (be delivered to Brussels), they are also aimed to be shared with our Member organizations and the PPs will be treated as an achievement of our organization. The production of PPs and our strong presence in Brussels is the one pillar of the future of ECCE. The other pillar is the enlargement of ECCE and the attraction of more members. ECCE President has been working on

this direction from the beginning of his term as President and there is positive result as we have two new members (Ukraine and Romania) and also ICE joined ECCE again. He also said that the continuation of other ECCE projects and activities is very important also and he encouraged the SC and TF Chairmen and members to elaborate the most important topics they have been discussing in their SCs and submit them as proposals for Position Papers or as proposals for different kind of activities and projects. According to the **"Guidelines for ECCE Position Papers & other activities"** the proposals to be submitted could be for other activities and projects like publishing books, organizing events, conferences or seminars, etc. All these proposals will be treated at the same rank as Position Papers. All these proposals ought to be submitted accompanied by a business plan where all the details about the project will be described.

Then, ECCE President described all the work that has been carried out during the previous months related to the New ECCE Strategy. He also said that our members had been asked to suggest topics that they consider most important to produce Position Papers on. The feedback we got was good for a start. For example, Cyprus would like to prepare a PP on water with George Demetriou as leader. George Demetriou took the floor and explained that in their Association they discussed and decided that they can undertake the elaboration of a Position Paper on water that of course will not present only the position of Cyprus but they will try to present the positions of all European Countries. The topics about water that could be dealt with are privatization and public appoints for water, benchmarking, water cycle, state of water, climatic conditions, infrastructure, management, pricing and cost recovery, environmental issues and sustainability, energy approach, quality, quantity, stakeholders involved in this subject, transparency for water, procurement issues, protection, education and culture, EU Policies and measures, flooding, tap water, sewage water, future challenges, etc. He said that they will choose one or two subjects from the ones presented above and relate it to energy and in the future they could continue with some other subjects. This way we could build a whole approach on water by Civil Engineers.

ECCE President announced that also Ruben Paul Borg sent a letter a couple of days ago and has offered to prepare two PPs on the two main topics that his SC on Knowledge & Technology was working on (BIM – LCA and Vision 2025 – Survey of Trends in Civil Engineering). These two PPs will be as a continuation of the SC K&T work.

ECCE President said that the next example comes from Latvia. Latvian Society of Civil Engineers sent to ECCE President a letter of support of the changes and the new direction of ECCE and offered also their involvement in preparing PPs. Vija Geme said that they have discussed this issue in their Association and they think that it is very important to change the situation of the previous years and aim for something new so they support the new strategy. Also, she said that they are looking for some useful and necessary activities such as BIM for example, as it is very interesting to develop and evolve in different countries because they don't have enough equal experience. Another issue that is important for them is to further develop the ECCE Card not only as a membership card but as a Professional Card maybe according to the EU concept. She also said that they think it is important to establish some kind of standards about what Civil Engineering is.

ECCE President continued talking about Lithuania that also sent a letter of support. Kestutis Kurlys took the floor and said that they fully support the new strategy and they are interested in the subject of resourcing and developing underground public transport infrastructure.

ECCE President announced that we received two more proposals on topics for PPs from Aris Chatzidakis. Aris Chatzidakis said that the one topic is about the deregulation process of the Civil Engineering profession as we have to make a mutual evaluation of the system of access in our profession and what the Commission wants is to eliminate any possible barriers to access liberal professions as Civil Engineering. He thinks that this is a very serious ongoing matter and that we should express our point of view about the need of some regulation rules. The second topic is about the need of considering structural safety together with energy efficiency in buildings. Now, the National Authorities have started giving grants and approving projects on renovation of public buildings ignoring the aspect of the buildings' safety evaluation. So, he thinks that we should state that it is not acceptable a public building could be renovated for energy efficiency reasons without a parallel assessment of its structural safety. And also, the works related to the safety upgrade of the building should also be granted by EU funding because now this cannot happen. They fund only the energy efficiency works but not the safety ones.

ECCE President said that he also received a letter from ICE fully supporting this new strategy and also offering their participation in PPs in areas such as environment, energy and sustainability.

ECCE President announced also that Prof. Zygmunt Meyer from Poland offered himself to be involved in a PP regarding the education of Civil Engineers. Zygmunt Meyer said that being a Professor at the University and being an engineer at the same time in a real engineering job he realized that there are certain gaps that need to be fulfilled. The first gap according to Zygmunt Meyer is the way that the curriculum of the engineering studies is formed. In Poland, for example, the scientific board decides about the curriculum, they vote for this and then it becomes law. When the students graduate and go to work in a company it seems that they are insufficiently prepared during their studies for this. So, Zygmunt Meyer said that there should be a certain period of time when the students are educated in a company so that they gain experience in practical issues too. He said that the scientific board that specifies the syllabus should be consisted of people that come from various sides, for example

one third from the University, one third from the companies or Chamber of Engineers and one third from the State administration.

ECCE President said that it could be the executive summary of a Position Paper and that it would be very interesting to compare the situation in Poland with the situation in education in the UK for example as they have been discussing about the issues in engineers' education with ICE leadership during the previous year's meetings. He said that ICE has big influence in organizing and creating the courses in the University. So, we could compare the two cases. Zygmunt Meyer said that the British system is a good one to compare with and also the German one.

Casten Ahrens told Zygmunt Meyer that they had a common project in European Civil Engineering management which they did together and started it in 1992 and he thinks that this is a very good example to involve it in the Position Paper.

Sean Harris said that indeed ICE accredits civil engineering degrees. There are around 80 civil engineering degrees which are delivered through UK Universities and ICE accredits 60 of them. So, the course has to meet certain standards and the content has to be agreed with ICE in order for a course to be accredited. So, effectively the ICE accredits degrees and if a degree is not accredited then it is not recognized by the Engineering Council as being a Civil Engineering degree. There is a dialogue between the ICE and the University.

Klaus Thurriedl said that he would like to suggest the cooperation between ECCE and ECEC in two matters. He said that we recognized deregulation of the profession in terms of EU which is really serious and he asked us not to take this matter to Brussels alone but together with ECEC. He said that we need the forces of all engineers in Europe to make a position in Brussels as there are no engineers there and we have to recognize that. We have infringement positions like in Germany, Cyprus, Austria and some other countries all in the matter of deregulation. He said that we protect our business by regulations but we as engineers need to protect our quality too and to work as a liberal profession. The next topic he asked ECCE to work together with ECEC is education. He said that it is not a matter of civil engineers only but all kinds of engineers. He said that the EU did a tender in November 2015 to make a proposal for common training principles back to the Professional Qualification Directive, Article 49A, if the EU members agree a Common Training Framework for automatic mutual recognition it will become effect in EU. So, ECEC submitted a proposal and they won the tender. He thanked ECCE for having supported them with a letter of intent and now that they have been rewarded a lot of work will start for them. He said that if we work together and we are successful the visibility for engineering profession will raise.

Zygmunt Meyer agreed with Klaus Thurriedl and was happy with the conclusion of this discussion.

Prof. Tugrul Tankut said that most of the delegates must remember that he had been criticizing the rather poor performance of some of the SCs and now he is rather pleased to see that the new strategy of ECCE is based on Position Papers. He believes that this is the right track and he has gone through the guidelines that have been drafted and he finds them quite sensible but a little bit simplistic. He said that he is glad that there are so many proposals that members are ready to produce PPs on. His concern is that an ECCE PP should not be a document reflecting the views of the author but the generally accepted perspective of ECCE. Therefore, it's not easy to prepare a PP in one month. He said that the PP should start with a serious proposal which indicates the people, the experts that will take part in this effort and should formulate the general meant of study and should indicate the possible results and the deliverables in the end. And in the end, when the PP draft is presented it should be evaluated by the ExBo and it should then be discussed in the General Assembly in detail, not a general discussion with a few remarks and then voted as accepted or rejected. Also, it should somehow be secured that the PP will convey a certain message to the authorities involved. Otherwise, we can produce a number of PP every year without the proper quality. He said that if the PP are not properly evaluated and properly developed they will not serve their purpose and therefore he would like to ask everyone to think twice before submitting a proposal.

ECCE President said that many of Tugrul Tankut's concerns were discussed in the ExBo meeting the previous day. He agreed that the PPs should be of a proper quality and should express the common view of ECCE Members. He also said that we could have two types of PPs, one that is proper to be submitted to Brussels and one that is good enough to be disseminated to our members as a material in which the author gives some answers from his point of view. These two types of Position Papers could be received and although the second type would not be valuable for Brussels, it would be valuable for other members as a source of information.

Klaus Thurriedl said that Prof. Tugrul Tankut underlined the word "expert" and without any doubt he is right. But you have to have an expert for a PP that is purposed to go to Brussels and an expert to take it to Brussels because we as engineers are not good in selling, we are good in engineering but not in selling, and the members in the Parliament and the Commission they want to have a benefit from this so we have to sell it.

ECCE President said that we have already started working on this idea as we think that our representation in Brussels is very important for achieving our goals. We have already received an offer from a Brussels based company called AVISA. They sent us an offer with three levels of service. The basic level of service would cost us around 2.500 Euros (plus VAT) a month which is far too higher than what we expected and had discussed during our meeting in Prague. ECCE President said that we ought to attract partners to this idea, maybe ICE, CNI, CICCP,

etc. In this case the cost would be acceptable and also working as a team would bring us more benefits and he will try to discuss this option with our partners.

Nicola Monda said that CNI is hardly working in ECCE and ECEC and he hopes that ECCE and ECEC will work together in Brussels with the same references. He also stressed the importance of cooperation between ECCE and ECEC in the topic of Common Training Framework.

ECCE President said that we have already established our cooperation with ECEC for the Common Training Framework project.

Gorazd Humar said that our organization is the European Council of Civil Engineers and this is not equal to the European Community. He said that we are talking about Position Papers sent to Brussels with the danger that Klaus Thurriedl mentioned that they are not civil engineers but politicians and on the other hand to treat issues like water as it was presented by Cyprus, protection of cultural heritage and so on. He said that these issues are universal and we need to take care as we have members within ECCE which do not belong in the European Community such as Serbia, Montenegro, Turkey, Ukraine and Russia, Georgia, etc. whose destination is not Brussels. So, he concluded that we need to have a certain balance and take into account also the members that do not belong in the European Community.

ECCE President thanked Gorazd Humar for his remark and said that we have predicted in our guidelines a certain procedure that takes all the proposals for Position Papers and other activities through the General Assembly for discussion and final confirmation which will protect us from this trap.

Sean Harris talked about the Position Papers and that ICE is willing to collaborate with anyone who wants to collaborate with them. Their concern is that we need experts to deliver the message to Brussels if Brussels is our target. They are not experts in how to engage with Brussels as they don't need to do it but they are experts in engaging with the British Parliament and they pay advisors on how to get their message across. So, his recommendation would be to pay for an EU advisor and maybe ECCE, ECEC and FEANI part fund that individual because it's only by having somebody who understands how Brussels works that we can get our Position Papers to have an interaction.

Jose Francisco Saez Rubio said that what is happening today is a proof that our General Assembly is alive as this has become a brainstorming session. The Position Papers and the Common Training Framework topics were brought up. He said he wouldn't be considered as suspicious for the free mobility of professionals in Europe as part of his former speech but if he brings back history one of the drivers behind the creation of the ECEC was one discussion far ago with the former Directive which was brought up from the Common Training Framework. CTF was already in stand in the former Directive which was an element of dissension in the ECCE within itself and somehow brought up the ECEC and now it has been introduced by the European Commission in order to somehow be able to overcome and serve as spade to a so called elements for free professional mobility. Trying to overcome a court ruling from the European Court of Justice regarding unaccepting the diversity of the engineering procedures and engineering culture in each country, recognizing partial recognition on the grounds that most of the engineering and civil engineering education as such has differences all the needs of geographical location. He said that there is a need to be able to agree different sensitivities basically because those countries, the southern countries, if we are working on a CTF there's no holding barriers for full professional license in Spain. So, we are quite uncomfortable to find that some countries that may not add for the number of professionals which are already in place in CICCIP should be able to impose somehow how engineering will be practiced in his country. That thing is something that needs to be discussed and brought up because in the end there are different interests here and different sensitivities and what is suit is one thing, it is lobbying in Brussels which is commonly acceptable and it's legitimate. So, he said that this is one of the main problems we have. And last but not least, we need to be able to forward these papers as ECCE statements to be finally subscribed by National Organizations. Nobody should have to swallow any pill they don't want to. This is one of his main concerns about the new ECCE strategy and he thinks that we don't need to get a PP production syndrome in terms of numbers but to give time for discussion for each PP as we need to be able to agree different sensitivities. In the end what we need is a robust and inclusive system and above all we need a system.

Aris Chatzidakis expressed his gladness that ECEC was awarded the contract to carry out the project on Common Training Principles for Engineers. He suggested that each specialty of engineers should have a special working team. He proposed that for Civil Engineers should be a close cooperation with the organization that has granted the project trying to find if a CTF is possible for civil engineers having all the prerequisites in regulated countries.

ECCE President said that he thinks that it is a good idea to join this CTF project as we will have the opportunity to express our point of view on the subject, meaning the view of ECCE members.

ECCE President at this point announced that Estonia resigned from the organization of the 64th ECCE General Meeting due to financial constraints. So, he asked everyone to consider this and examine the possibility to host the ECCE General Meeting in autumn.

Aris Chatzidakis said that Greece would be happy to host the 64th ECCE General Meeting but before finalizing this offer he has to get a confirmation from the Headquarters in Greece. ECCE President thanked him for the preliminary invitation.

ECCE President introduced a discussion about the document "European Criteria applied to the assessment of works tenders" prepared by Prof. Janusz Rymysza and himself. He said that this document was circulated a few months ago and that we are ready now to take the final step. He announced that in the ExBo meeting the previous day they accepted this document unanimously as a first ECCE Position Paper starting a new era in ECCE. He said that the recommendation of the ExBo is to accept this document as a common position of ECCE on this subject. If the General Assembly votes for it a letter will be prepared to accompany this document and we will try to send this to Brussels as an ECCE point of view on the subject. Then, he asked for comments on the document from the ECCE members.

Gorazd Humar highlighted that we need to include in the document or in the letter the statement of the ExBo that was decided the day before that the lowest price in the public tender it is not the only governing condition.

ECCE President agreed that this remark should be included in the letter that will accompany the document.

Gabor Szolossy said that the implementation of the new Directive on the Public Procurement is on the way in all countries. In Hungary, he said, they are quite lucky because for engineers and architects the decision based on the price only is prohibited and there are other factors that are over the price factor. He suggested discussing the matter a little bit deeper before submitting it. He said that the deadline for implementation of the Directive is in April so after that we will be able to see how it is implemented in all the countries.

ECCE President said that in his understanding this Directive is not finishing the discussion about Public Procurement Law so he thinks he can consider the proposition even now.

Resolution 63.7:

The document "European Criteria applied to the assessment of works tenders" was accepted unanimously by the ECCE General Assembly as an ECCE document to be taken to Brussels.

Saturday 5th March 2016

13. Acceptance of ICE as an ECCE Member

ECCE President started the second day of the meeting with the case of the Institution of Civil Engineers. He announced that the previous day Nick Baveystock, Sean Harris and himself agreed that ICE will start a new period in ECCE as a new member starting from 1st January 2016. ICE will be admitted as a new member and the voting process for acceptance of them as ECCE Member by the ECCE General Assembly must take place.

Resolution 63.8:

The Institution of Civil Engineers (UK) was unanimously accepted as ECCE Full Member starting its membership from 1st January 2016.

14. New ECCE Strategy (Position Papers and Activities pipeline)

ECCE President started the discussion by announcing a change that was introduced in the document of the Guidelines for ECCE Position Papers and other activities during the ECCE ExBo meeting the previous day. The suggested change is in the chapter "How to submit a Position Paper to ECCE" Step 2 of the guidelines with the updated text being the following: "Assessment and final decision about starting the preparation of a Position Paper belongs to ExBo".

Tugrul Tankut suggested mentioning in the Guidelines an expert consultant whenever needed before the decision of ExBo to accept a proposal.

Gorazd Humar said that we can have different kinds of Position Papers, either more political oriented presenting policy or intentions of ECCE, or documents that have no political but more scientific content. In the second case he said that members of ExBo might not be qualified enough in order to judge if the quality of the PP is good enough, so his general recommendation is being more flexible and treat each case and proposal individually as they are by nature and not having the Guidelines as bible.

ECCE President said that he agrees with this view presented by Tugrul Tankut and Gorazd Humar and that the change we introduced in the Guidelines is only for not paralyzing the procedure and being able to be more efficient. He said that the assessment of the proposals by the ExBo is going to take place at a very preliminary stage. He thinks that at the first stage when ExBo receives a proposal with a title and a short summary justifying the project, ExBo is competent enough to assess whether it is worth continuing with this project or not. He thinks that the remarks of Tugrul Tankut and Gorazd Humar are valid for the next step which is the preparation of the project, when ExBo could involve an expert.

Tugrul Tankut said that he doesn't agree with this approach. He thinks that initial assessment is important because if you make a mistake in the very beginning then the efforts will be wasted. And therefore, this initial decision should be based on some grounds and that is why an expert opinion is extremely important.

ECCE President said that we can accept the remark from Tugrul Tankut but the decision will still belong to ExBo otherwise the whole process will be paralyzed.

Resolution 63.9:

The "Guidelines for ECCE Position Papers and other activities" were changed according to the ExBo proposal and the remarks from Tugrul Tankut and Gorazd Humar. The final text in the chapter "How to submit a Position Paper to ECCE" Step 2 is the following: "2 step – Assessment of the proposal and decision by the ExBo. (Involvement of a specialist if needed)". The suggested change was unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

ECCE President said that we have already received a few offers for Position Papers but in order for ExBo to assess them we need to receive them in a more complete and proper way. He said that a proposal should be no more than one page with a title and a short summary justifying the writing of the Position Paper.

Tugrul Tankut said that apart from the paragraph of justification we also need to receive information about the working team (who will be the authors), the timescale and the budget requirement (if necessary).

The deadline for receiving completed proposals will be 4 weeks starting from Monday 7th March 2016.

So, what we need to have in a proposal is the following:

- Title of the PP
- Short summary justifying the writing of the PP
- Working team
- Timescale
- Preliminary cost assessment (if necessary)

Resolution 63.10:

The implementation of the New ECCE Strategy was voted unanimously by the ECCE General Assembly.

15. ECCE Financial matters

ECCE President asked Vija Geme to present the ECCE financial situation. Vija Geme firstly talked about the budget of 2015 where we had predicted income to be 77.000€ and instead we got 43.000€. The expenditures were more or less the same as in the previous years. The main problem was our income which comes only from our full members and associate members fees. The result in 2015 was 15.960€ loss and in 2014 also loss about 2.000€.

She said that thankfully we had an accumulated fund which was used to cover for the loss of the last couple of years. In the end of 2015 the balance was 313.423€.

ECCE President commented that 2015 was the second year we had a deficit but luckily enough we had an accumulated fund to cover this deficit. However, this situation is dangerous for our finances and we cannot continue going this way as this accumulated fund is to be used for ECCE projects or in extraordinary situations, but this situation is not extraordinary as we can see that many of our members have not paid their membership fee. So, the lack of this payment has led to the deficits in 2014 and 2015. ECCE President asked the members to have a serious approach to fulfilling their ECCE membership duties because without this income we have to consume our accumulated fund each year and cut all our activities, but this wouldn't be good for ECCE. He said that if members don't pay their membership fees we will be led to a blind end.

Resolution 63.11:

The ECCE Year End Report for 2015 was unanimously approved by the ECCE General Assembly.

Tugrul Tankut suggested sending reminding letters to the members again and again about their financial obligations reminding them also of the consequences of not paying.

Vija Geme said that this was done, letters were sent and also individual discussions took place but this was not enough.

ECCE President said that maybe we need to send the reminding letters every week hoping that we will get a result.

Vija Geme showed the sheet with the countries that didn't pay for 2015 which is as following:

- Finland (still in the list but not active in reality as they have left ECCE)
- Greece (information that they will pay in 2016 for the previous year also)
- Ireland (special situation as they submitted their resignation from ECCE)
- Malta (Ruben Paul Borg said that it's being processed)
- Montenegro (no information about them)
- Russia (special situation, they will reactivate and pay for the previous years too)
- Serbia (confirmed that it will pay)
- UK (was in the list but we had a special situation due to their resignation but from 2016 they will pay again)

Also, some of the ECCE Associate members that are in the list have not being paying and we only received 2.500€ instead of 6.000€ that was predicted in the budget as various institutions and companies didn't pay.

ECCE President introduced the issue of the ECCE Membership fees calculation. He said that the formula we have for calculating the membership fees for each country is based on the GDP, population and membership in the EU but we haven't actualized these factors for many years. The update of the fees is necessary.

Fernando Branco explained that the formula comes from the past and it would be good to explain to everyone the way the fees are calculated. The value of one share was defined at 2.100€ and a minimum fee was decided at 1/3 of the share so at 700€. The calculation of the fees for each country considers two variables, one is the population which is related to shares and the other is the GDP per capita which is related to the average GDP per capita in Europe. Also, the factor of whether a country belongs to the EU is considered in the calculation. If the country belongs to EU the coefficient is 100% and if not is 50%. The multiplication of all these factors leads to the value of the shares and these shares that are calculated for each country are multiplied with the value of the share (2.100€).

Resolution 63.12:

The ECCE ExBo will recalculate the membership fees for each country according to updated GDP and population data and will send the proposal to the ECCE members.

Resolution 63.13:

Sean Harris from ICE was unanimously approved by the ECCE General Assembly as an authorized signatory for the ECCE bank account.

16. ECCE forthcoming elections

Maria Karanasiou informed the ECCE members that in the autumn General Assembly we are going to have elections for the new ECCE Executive Board and therefore we would like to turn your attention on some issues concerning our elections procedure which are in close relationship with our new Articles of Association.

She presented the **elections information document** highlighting the points of attentions as changes have been applied according to the updated Articles of Association:

- The candidates as well as the voting delegates need to be engineers and preferably civil engineers.
- ECCE Members have one vote each provided all the annual financial contributions are paid, till that moment (new members) or for the last 3 years, since their last registration as member.
- The President elect and the Executive Board that will be elected in autumn will have a 3 year term.

17. Forthcoming ECCE General Meeting

Aris Chatzidakis (Greece) announced that the Vice President of the Association of Civil Engineers of Greece (ACEG), Elias Pertzinides, has been in contact with ACEG and the ACEG President communicated to him that ACEG would be happy to host the 64th ECCE General Meeting, in Athens, in October. He said that in October 2016, it will be one year since the passing of our friend and colleague Vassilis Economopoulos and the meeting will be hosted in Athens as an honor to Vassilis.

ECCE President thanked cordially Aris and the ACEG for their offer to host our 64th ECCE General Meeting.

18. Official close of the 63rd ECCE General Meeting

ECCE President thanked all the delegates for their participation and fruitful contribution to this meeting. He also thanked the hosts of our 63rd ECCE General Meeting for their excellent hospitality. He closed the 63rd ECCE General Meeting saying that he is proud of all of us as we started a new era of ECCE in this meeting with positive energy and asked the members to start preparations for Position Papers and other activities proposals as soon as possible.

Minutes prepared by: Maria Karanasiou
ECCE General Secretary