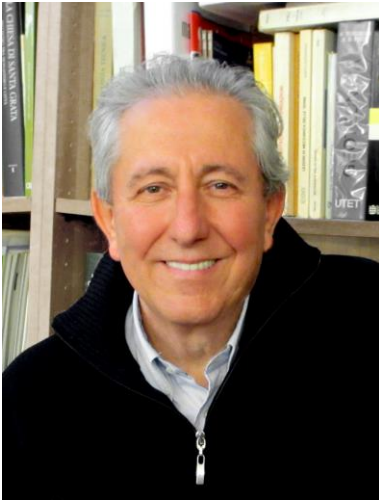


## PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016

### **Massimo Mariani, New President of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)**



**Prof. Massimo Mariani, ECCE  
President 2016-2018**

Massimo Mariani is the New President of the European Council of Civil Engineers. He took over Presidency of ECCE on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016, during the 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting, in Mariani will serve a two year term for the Period 2016 – 2018. Massimo Mariani had been appointed ECCE Vice President/ President Elect on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014, during the 60<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Warsaw, Poland. He was the ECCE National Delegate of the Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri (CNI), Italy, since 2012.

#### **PERSONAL PROFILE**

Massimo Mariani is an Engineer and an Architect, Laurea Magistrale (five years-duration programmes) and holds the professional qualification for both professions.

He is recognized among the leading experts in Italy and abroad in the consolidation and restoration of monumental buildings. He is professor of Structural Problems of the historical and monumental buildings at the Master of second level “Seismic improvements, Restoration and Consolidation of monumental and historical Constructions at the Engineering Faculty in Perugia. He teaches at seminars and programmes of professional updating at ASS.I.R.C.CO – Italian Association Restoration and Consolidation of Construction – founded by Carlo Cestelli Guidi – and at the Centro Studi “Sisto Mastrodicasa”; he is Member of the Board of these two cultural Associations. He is professor of “Geotechnics and Applied Geology to Engineering Works” at the programme of Laurea Magistrale at the University of Perugia.

He is the author of important treaties of specialist-doctrinal nature, alone or with other authors, and of articles on National and International magazines.

Former President of the Ordine degli Ingegneri della Provincia di Perugia, he is now a Councillor of the Consiglio Nazionale degli Ingegneri d'Italia, responsible of the sector Culture, and is a Member of the Board of the Scuola Superiore and Centro Europeo di Formazione per l'Ingegneria.

He is Academic of Merit of the Academy of Fine Arts “Pietro Vannucci” in Perugia.

For further information you can refer to his website <http://www.massimomarianistudio.com/>.

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## New Executive Board of the European Council of Civil Engineers Elected at the 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting



The General Assembly of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) has elected new Executive Board at the ECCE Executive Board Elections that took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 at the 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in Athens, Greece.

The composition of the new Executive Board will thereafter be composed of the following persons:

*New ECCE ExBo 2016-2018*

Name	Position	Country
Massimo Mariani	President	Italy
Włodzimierz Szymczak	Immediate Past President	Poland
Aris Chatzidakis	Vice President / President Elect	Greece
Dimitar Natchev	Vice President / Treasurer	Bulgaria
Andres Piirsalu	Executive Board Member	Estonia
Jose Francisco Saez Rubio	Executive Board Member	Spain
Iuri Svanidze	Executive Board Member	Georgia

## 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting and Round Table “Building the future: The road to prosperity is always under construction”



*64<sup>th</sup> ECCE GM participants*

The 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2016, in Athens, Greece, hosted by the Civil Engineers Association of Greece (ACEG) and the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG). The Round Table “Building the future: The road to prosperity is always under construction” was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016, organized by ACEG, TCG and ECCE, in the context of the 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE GM.

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**Round Table**

**The Round Table “Building the future: The road to prosperity is always under construction”** gathered speakers from the Greek government, academia, and the construction sector at national and international level.

The Greek government was represented by **Mr. I. Xanthakos**, General Secretary of Economy, Development and Tourism who delivered a speech about the current circumstances in the construction sector in Greece and the measures and steps that the Greek government has taken in order to boost the construction sector as it is one of the government’s priorities. **Mr. A. Flavouraris**,

Minister of State of Greece sent a letter in which he stressed that as a government they are determined to give the necessary boost to the economy as the need for jobs creation and reducing unemployment is imperative. He mentioned that this is high time the development process started and therefore immediate action must be taken and coordination and commitment of all forces is required.

**Prof. Fernando Branco**, ECCE Past President and IABSE President Elect, delivered a presentation on the “Engineering Challenges for a future Europe”. He indicated as opportunities for improvement the maintenance works of existing infrastructure, rebuilding and enhancing the energy efficiency of buildings, improving their seismic resistance, particularly in the southern countries which are in earthquake zones. But also there is a need to develop new road and rail infrastructure. Also, special reference was made to the design and implementation of shoreline protection works, because of the effects on climate change and rising sea levels, the use of new recyclable materials, and the creation of infrastructure and buildings with a zero carbon footprint. Finally, he noted the significant growth presented by the industry in the markets of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

**Prof. (Em.) Sergios Lambropoulos**, Professor at the National Technical University of Athens and former Secretary General of co-financed projects of the Ministry of Infrastructure, delivered a presentation on “Planning, Designing and Scheduling Infrastructure Projects in Recession Times”. He spoke about the need to reverse the underfunding of the construction industry works and to promote measures to facilitate the construction of many small viable projects, also adding to the need to promote holistic methods of education of engineers in the country.

**Dr. Vassilis Bardakis**, President of the Civil Engineers Association of Greece delivered a presentation stressing that the “Investment in Infrastructure is also an investment in the EU economy”. He pointed out the disproportionate cost in jobs and economic growth by not promoting investments in the infrastructure sector, in relation to the resulting benefits that occur by stimulating it, and emphasized the urgent need for economic stimulus.

**Mr. Włodzimierz Szymczak**, President of the European Council of Civil Engineers, in his speech “Crisis? This is the best starting point to success!” stressed the need to boost small and medium-sized enterprises which, he said are the core of the EU’s development and important part of the European economy. “It is necessary to unlock the potential of SMEs are the engine of development across Europe, with the formation of an appropriate political and economic climate. Only then will tackle unemployment.” he said. He noted that measures to combat bureaucracy are needed as well as the creation of clear and stable rules, but also the creation of a climate of economic incentives by reducing taxation and facilitating funding is important.

**Dr. Antonis Panas**, General Secretary, Companies’ Sector of the Pan-Hellenic Association of Engineers Contractors of Public Works, delivered a speech on “The way to a sustainable construction sector: The contractors’ perspective”. He stressed that the gloomy picture of the

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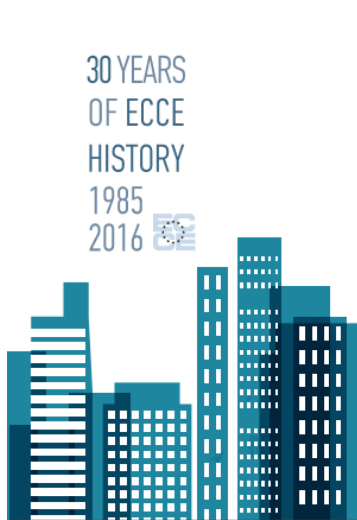
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construction sector in Europe lies in the great differences in the performance between the Member States. He said that the general conclusion of FIEC's annual report is that the European construction industry is recovering but we cannot claim the same for Greece which has gone deep into recession. According to his opinion, the solutions lie in two fundamental pillars: first, financing and second, reforming the existing framework which governs construction projects' realization in Greece.

Finally, **Mr. Aris Chatzidakis**, TCG representative and ECCE National Delegate for Greece wrapped up the discussion on the matters that were set by the speakers concluding that there has been a deep crisis in the construction sector over the last eight years and highlighting the need and importance of enhancing the liquidity of the real economy.

On Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting took place. At the beginning of the meeting a special **tribute to our deceased friend and ECCE Past President Vassilis Economopoulos** was made presented by the TCG representative Aris Chatzidakis, as in October it was the one year anniversary of his passing. Anna Papodopoulou, Vassilis' widow, honored us with her presence and she was awarded with an honorary plaque.



One important highlight of the 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting was the presentation of the **“30 Years of ECCE History”** book. The preparation of a book about the History of the European Council of Civil Engineers had been discussed and decided a few years ago. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ECCE that was celebrated last year and was marked by the sad and unfortunate event of the passing of Vassilis Economopoulos was the motivation for putting together the materials and photographs that had been accumulated over the years into a solid document that would summarize the history of this organization. The main author of this book is ECCE Honorary President Yrjo Matikainen, and contributing authors ECCE Past President Fernando Branco and ECCE Past President late Vassilis Economopoulos. Also, Gorazd Humar and Wlodzimierz Szymczak contributed to the content of this book. The “30 Years of ECCE History” can be found in electronic format [here](#).

During the 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting ECCE family was increased by one Member. The **Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants (bAIK)** was unanimously accepted as Full ECCE Member. Mr. Klaus Thurried, who is the Chairman of the Engineers Department of bAIK, participated in our meeting and announced the intention of bAIK joining ECCE that was result of the fruitful contacts and meetings between the ECCE President and Mr. Thurriedl over the past year.

The 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting was successful and effective for the internal works of the ECCE as well. Significant discussions were held and decisions were reached regarding critical issues such as the ECCE finances, the ECCE Position Papers, the ECCE approach to the Common Training Principles for Engineers project and the continuation of the new strategy for ECCE that was introduced a year ago by the ECCE President at the time Wlodzimierz Szymczak.

The **New ECCE President, Prof. Massimo Mariani**, in his inaugural speech stated *“The European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) has been and will always be for the advancement of engineering thinking and its application to local realities which transcends administrative or political country borders. ECCE not only represents the instances of modern civil and construction engineers on the European scene; it contributes forging their thinking as engineers. By equating engineering solutions to a valorisation of scientific and humanistic principles adjoined to empiric based modelling it opens links with other human and technological disciplines and professional practices. Hence the need to begin reforming ECCE and furthermore reposition the*

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*Council vis-à-vis other engineering and non- engineering associations, that share our transnational and cultural patrimony.”*



**New ECCE President inaugural speech**

Prof. Massimo Mariani described his priorities during his term of office as ECCE President as follows:

- *In spite that the economic crisis had strongly penalized our civil engineering profession all over Europe, we should move with the times and transform our profession from national to international. This shall take place and contemporarily we should pursue the highest scientific preparation, comprehensive humanistic education, and be able to characterise our profession historically. We should adapt our work and knowledge to the need of our time and master the most developed operational techniques and methods.*
- *ECCE position papers, always of the highest quality because of the professionalism of the authors, must continue to be produced and portray the excellence of civil engineering in assessing and solving relevant and current technical challenges for our professional category.*
- *ECCE should continue to identify high levels of professional competences of civil engineers; the ECCE Professional Card is a vehicle to endorse quality delivery of professional activities. We should promote it with strong determination.*

***The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to express its gratitude to the Greek Association of Civil Engineers and the Technical Chamber of Greece for the successful organization of 64<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Assembly and the Round Table and their exceptional hospitality.***

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