

MINUTES of the 65th GENERAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

2nd – 3rd June 2017, Antalya, Turkey

PARTICIPANTS:

Executive Board (National Delegate = ND):

Surname, First name	ND	Member Organization	Country	
Szymczak, Włodzimierz		Immediate Past President - Acting President	Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Poland
Chatzidakis, Aris		President - Elect, Vice- President	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Natchev, Dimitar		Treasurer, Vice - President	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Saez, Jose Francisco	1 st ND	Member	Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
Piirsalu, Andres	1 st ND	Member	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Svanidze, Iuri	1 st ND	Member	Georgian Society of Civil Engineers	Georgia
Karanasiou, Maria		General Secretary	-	Greece

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

Surname	Name	Position	Organization	Country
Brandner	Andreas	1 st ND	Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants	Austria
Piriyev	Aydin	Invited Ass 1 st Delegate	Association "Support for the professional Development of the Civil Engineers" of Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
Simeonov	Georgi	1 st ND	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Stefanova	Maria	2 nd ND	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Paska	Ivan	1 st ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
Sokolić	Željko	2 nd ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
Dimitriou	Georgios	1 st ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Kutruza	Bora	2 nd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Yagcioglu	Gurkan	3 rd 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	Tiiia	2 nd ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Svanidze	Iuri	1 st ND	Georgian Society of Civil Engineers	Georgia
Kalabegishvili	Mirian	2 nd ND	Georgian Society of Civil Engineers	Georgia
Sturm	Hermann	Hon. Vice Pres./1 st D AM	Institute of German Engineers	Germany
Charlaftis	Paris	1 st ND	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Coleman	Murt	Observer	Engineers Ireland	Ireland
Monda	Nicola	Invited Ass 1 st Delegate	Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries	Italy
Geme	Vija	1 st ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Hendrikson	Helena	2 nd ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Stragys	Vincentas	1 st ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Soares	Paulo	1 st ND	Order of Engineers	Portugal
Manoliu	Iacint	1 st D AM	EUCEET Association	Romania
Zadnik	Branko	1 st ND	Slovenian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovenia
Tankut	Tugrul	1 st ND	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Gökçe	Cemal	Chairman	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Kaya	Hüseyin	Secretary	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Oğuz	Cem	ExBo Member	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey

Özkul	Ceylan	Project Manager	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Coughlan	Paul	1 st ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK
Farmer	Ingrid	2 nd ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK

Apologies:

Surname, First name / Member Organization

Szollossy Gabor
Massimo Mariani
Orvieto, Roberto
Abela, Jeanette
Knezevic, Milos
Jovanovic, Ranka
Moravcik, Lubos
Slobodyan, Yaroslav

Country
Hungary
Italy
Italy
Malta
Montenegro
Serbia
Slovakia
Ukraine

Friday 2nd June 2017

1. Opening of the Meeting

Tugrul Tankut (1st National Delegate from the host organization Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers and representative of the World Council of Civil Engineers) welcomes everyone in Antalya and wishes a successful meeting and pleasant stay. He explains that this meeting was put together in a very short time and thanks Maria Karanasiou (ECCE Gen. Sec.) and Ceylan Ozkul (TCCE Organization Secretary) and Prof. Cem Oğuz (Member of the Executive Board of TCCE) for their efforts in organizing this meeting.

Tugrul Tankut speaking as WCCE representative conveyed a message on behalf of the WCCE President Alfonso Gonzalez saying that he regrets for being unable to attend this meeting and apologizes for his absence. He confirms his desire for continuing collaboration of the two sister councils namely ECCE and WCCE and he expresses his friendly feelings and his wishes for a successful ECCE meeting.

ECCE Acting President, Włodzimierz Szymczak, opens the 65th ECCE General Meeting thanking and welcoming everyone who joined the Meeting in Antalya. He explains that people might be surprised that he chairs this meeting but it is for a serious reason that will be discussed later. Just for the justification of his presence there as chairman he shortly informed the audience that the elected ECCE President has practically disappeared from the ECCE works since the beginning of the year and he has been an Acting President since then. He addresses a special and cordial welcome to the ECCE guests that joined our meeting and also to our hosts, Cemal Gökçe TCCE Chairman, Prof. Tugrul Tankut TCCE representative in ECCE for many years, Hüseyin Kaya TCCE General Secretary, Cem Oğuz TCCE ExBo Member, Aydin Piriyeve President of the Association "Support for the professional Development of the Civil Engineers" of Azerbaijan, Hermann Sturm ECCE Honorary Vice President and Nicola Monda EAMC General Secretary. Also, he welcomes Murt Coleman who attends our meeting as observer of the Engineers Ireland. He wishes a fruitful meeting and a pleasant stay in Antalya.

Following, Cemal Gökçe TCCE Chairman addresses his opening speech which can be found [here](#). In his speech he stresses that Civil engineering profession is a universal profession, closely related to human communities of the world and as such civil engineering services must be in the public interest and contribute more to the development of civilization. He explains the actions and goals of the TCCE that contribute towards this direction and closes by stressing the importance of continuing cooperation between TCCE and ECCE.

WS takes the floor and thanks TCCE Chairman. Then he refers to the late Kestutis Kurlys President of the Lithuanian Chamber of Civil Engineers and dear ECCE Member who passed away a few months ago. He asks the audience to observe a moment of silence paying tribute to Kestutis.

2. Introduction of ECCE Members

All the representatives of the Full and Associate ECCE Members present themselves and the delegation of their organization to ECCE. Participants are listed in the first couple of pages of the document.

Nicola Monda takes the floor and says that apart from EAMC representative CNI delegated him to represent CNI in this meeting. He adds that he talked with ECCE President Massimo Mariani who apologized for his absence and promised to get in touch with ECCE as soon as possible.

3. Introduction and acceptance of new ECCE Members

WS takes the floor and introduces the potential new ECCE Associate Member Association "Support for the professional Development of the Civil Engineers" of Azerbaijan. He explains that over the last few months we have been in contact with the Azerbaijan Association with the assistance of ExBo Member Iuri Svanidze and as a result of our negotiations with them is the official candidature of the Association "Support for the professional Development of the Civil Engineers" of Azerbaijan for becoming ECCE Associate Member. WS informs the General Assembly that all the official documents have been submitted successfully (and distributed to all ECCE Members in advance) and now after the presentation of the Azerbaijan Association that will be delivered by its President Aydin Piriyeve the candidature will be put to voting by the General Assembly.

Aydin Piriyeve, takes the floor and delivers the presentation about Association "Support for the professional Development of the Civil Engineers" of Azerbaijan that can be found [here](#).

Resolution 65.1:

The Association "Support for the professional Development of the Civil Engineers" of Azerbaijan is unanimously accepted as ECCE Associate Member.

WS explains that after 2 years we will reassess the Azerbaijan application and negotiate Full Membership in ECCE.

4. 64th ECCE General Meeting minutes approval

ECCE Acting President asks if anyone has any remark regarding the Minutes from the previous meeting in Athens.

Resolution 65.2:

The Minutes of the 64th ECCE General Meeting in Athens are unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

The minutes of the 64th ECCE General Meeting can be found [here](#).

5. ECCE brief activity report since October 2016

ECCE Acting President explains that the ECCE brief activity report will be presented not only by him but collectively together with ExBo Members and the Secretary General as all the ECCE activities have been performed collectively especially during this time period under the special circumstances without active participation of the ECCE President. The ECCE brief activity report since October 2016 can be found [here](#).

The updated information regarding the organization of the 3rd European Engineers' Day is presented by ExBo Member Jose Francisco Saez Rubio as part of the brief activity report. The presentation can be found [here](#).

WS presents the idea of the "2018 European Year of Civil Engineers". The steps predicted for the organization of the 2018 EYCE can be found [here](#). WS announces that he has already spoken with Paul Coughlan from ICE and he accepted to be one of the members of the Steering Committee for 2018 EYCE. Also, he announces that the opening event of the 2018 EYCE will be held in the beginning of December 2017 in Cyprus and the closing event will be held in October 2018 in London where the 200th Anniversary of ICE, the 50th Anniversary of WFEO and the 68th ECCE General Meeting will take place.

At the end of the brief activity report presentation George Demetriou (Cyprus) takes the floor and mentions that Cyprus had initially proposed that we should establish a Day for Civil Engineers that will be the same and will be celebrated annually. Each country could celebrate it by organizing an event for Civil Engineering or by making an announcement, etc.

Huseyin Kaya TCCE General Secretary takes the floor and says that he supports this idea. He continues that in Turkey they have a week for civil engineers in the middle of December during which they organize activities about civil engineers.

Murt Coleman (observer from Engineers Ireland) asks a question regarding ECCE's financial rules. He asks if ECCE intends to have its accounts audited externally. Dimitar Natchev (Treasurer, Bulgaria) said that we don't have such intention and MC replies that we should.

Tugrul Tankut (Turkey) takes the floor and talks about the 2018 EYCE. He says that according to his understanding ECCE will prepare a logo and each country will organize an activity that will be carried out under this logo. He says that he thinks this is easy to achieve but we can't expect much unless there is a presentation in each event explaining the idea and the principles of ECCE. So, he suggests that in each event we should have one speaker from ECCE that will deliver a presentation which will explain the whole idea of the 2018 EYCE making the logo meaningful. WS replies that he is right and he shares his concerns. He says that our intention is to prepare a presentation that will be presented in these events but we can't afford to attend all the events across the European countries so we may select some of them. TT says that each National Delegate could translate the presentation in

his language and present it during the event on behalf of ECCE so that ECCE President or ExBo members don't have to attend all the events. WS says that he finds it a very good idea.

TT asks also what the basic principles behind the idea of the Civil Engineering Summit that will be held in London are. What does Summit mean and are there any common activities bringing these institutions together planned? WS says that we can arrange some common activities and this is the reason of Paul Coughlan's presence in the Steering Committee so that we can coordinate our activities better. He says that by Summit he means the gathering of civil engineers from around the world but we will try to add some added value to this gathering.

JFS takes the floor and says that Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (CICCP) wishes to contribute to the organization of the 2018 EYCE activities.

Aris Chatzidakis (Vice President / President Elect, Greece) makes a proposition regarding the 2018 EYCE. He suggests that there should be a kind of written declaration or manifesto about civil engineering, the importance of civil engineers, etc. to inaugurate the 2018 EYCE.

During this presentation the topic of the absence of ECCE President Massimo Mariani is brought up. WS describes the circumstances that this ExBo had to face due to ECCE President's absence from his role. He mentions that MM sent a letter in the beginning of this year stating his inability to be in the position of ECCE President for a period of time and asking WS and AC to share his duties. WS says that ExBo decided that WS had to carry on his duties as Acting President over the temporary absence of MM and this is the reason for his current position here during this meeting. WS says that over this period of MM's absence the ExBo hasn't managed to contact MM directly and we don't know what his intention is for the future. He concludes that this awkward situation should be discussed in the General Assembly as we don't know what to do. Acting on behalf of the President is not good for our organization and this situation should not be continued for too long.

Paul Coughlan takes the floor and says that he would like to say something about the current situation with the ECCE President and his substitution by the ECCE Acting President. He says that from the point of view of the ICE it is very important that ECCE has leadership. They obviously recognize that Mr. Mariani has his reasons that make him unable to carry out his role and these things happen to life but it has been a little time since he wasn't able to carry out the role and it is the time when a certain decision is made about the future. So, they encourage whoever is going to make contact with Mr. Mariani to decide rather quickly whether he is going to be able to assume his role as President and if he can't someone else should carry out the role until his term is completed. The key issue is the leadership and ICE thinks that ECCE needs an active and proactive President to complete the term.

WS says that ExBo has discussed the issue and have decided to ask the General Assembly to empower ECCE ExBo to start correspondence with Massimo Mariani on behalf of the GA in order to gently ask him what his plan for the future is. In case we fail to communicate with him we shall contact officially CNI President as CNI is an ECCE member and we ought to inform them about the issue we have and also appreciate their opinion on the topic. He says that it is not easy for him to continue to carry out the role of the President in ECCE for the future.

George Demetriou says that until our next meeting in October we should have a clear position and therefore we have to decide now. He mentions that having an Acting President in ECCE might not be legal. He suggests that we may have to have another election.

Tugrul Tankut says that the WS's plan sounds sensible and agrees with it.

AC says that he also agrees with WS's proposal but he says he was advised by Nicola Monda to have a personal contact with MM first. He suggests contacting MM by phone and offers himself to do it. WS agrees with this proposal.

Vija Geme (Latvia) takes the floor next and says that she agrees with AC's proposal. She thinks it is necessary to first establish a personal contact with MM. If that fails we should prepare an official letter to CNI and to MM. As a third step we have to look into our Bylaws to check if something is predicted for such cases and if not to introduce some changes that will provide solutions for cases like this one in the future.

WS says that in the past he has tried to phone MM several times but without any success unfortunately. Also, our correspondence via email has not been very successful lately.

Andreas Bradner (Austria) suggests that we should try to establish personal contact with MM and try to clarify this mess without losing faith. In case the personal contact fails then we should contact CNI officially.

Alois Materna (Czech Republic) says that we have been trying to solve this problem for too long. He says that there should be rules about what to do if a President dies, or resigns, etc. He believes that if CNI does not respond to our letters it is in the competence of the GA to elect a temporary President until the end of this term. He says that MM as an adult person must take responsibility and inform us if he will carry on or if he wants to resign.

WS says that we have written a letter to MM a few months ago saying that we although we appreciate very much his work and contribution to the earthquake hit areas of Italy but we would like to ask him for how long he would be away from his role as President. MM's reply was angry and not so polite accusing ExBo of having a harsh inhuman position. After that another letter was sent to MM trying to explain that we do understand the situation he is going through but there is also the responsibility towards ECCE which needs to be taken into account too. WS says that this was the last correspondence we exchanged since then.

Murt Coleman says that although he understands the problem he suggest treating the matter with caution as MM is a famous Professor with good reputation and we shouldn't damage it. He says that MM must be living under a lot of stress and we should give him a chance. MC continues that from Engineers Ireland point of view ECCE having no leadership is not good and although they would like to rejoin ECCE if there is no leadership it is difficult for them to decide it.

JFS says that he concurs with VG that this topic should be addressed according to regulations. He mentions that in the Bylaws there is only an option saying that the ExBo with the ratification of the GA may terminate at its discretion and for good reason the office of a defaulting ExBo member. He continues that if MM takes his responsibility as President then the problem is automatically solved but if not then either we have to solve it in the General Assembly now or in Vienna or we have to empower the ExBo to be able to solve it.

Paul Coughlan says that there are two scenarios either Massimo can continue and comes back soon or if he can't then we need another President and we need to start the process of electing another President. He says that waiting 6 months till the next GA is too long so that needs to be done in this meeting. So, he suggests that we should send Massimo an email even today and wait for his reply but we need to have a time limit because if it is open ended it will carry on. He also suggests a plan B according to which a potential new President should be available to take over if Massimo resigns.

Branko Zadnik says that we have to look at the problem under the principle of force majeure as we have a President who is not able to be active. In this case our organization has an Immediate Past President and a President Elect. He says that in such case we come today to realize that our President is not able to carry out the work and that so far our Immediate Past President WS has carried out the Presidential tasks successfully and the function of ECCE continued smoothly. He suggests that WS continues his role as ECCE President with the assistance of President Elect AC until the end of this term.

Andreas Brandner says that although there is no regulation in the bylaws regarding the situation but the organization must go on and we have to see the several solutions we have as ECCE has to function.

Bora Kutruza (Cyprus) says that in the Article 5.6 of our Articles of Association it gives some direction on what to do if President is absent (5.6 The President shall chair the above meetings. In the absence of the President, and by this order, the Vice President / (President Elect or Immediate Past President), the Vice-president/Treasurer shall chair the meetings. All meetings must have a quorum of 50% membership. The Chairman shall hold the deciding vote if votes are tied.). He suggests also that before we make any solid decision we should give 30 days' notice according to Article 5.4. (5.4 Thirty (30) days' notice for special reasons i.e. resolutions, shall be given to all members for meetings called under 5.1 and 5.3. An agenda for all meetings shall be forwarded, with the notice, to all members. The agenda may include suggested items by a member provided they are submitted for inclusion in reasonably good time.).

WS says that the situation had to be solved three months ago but we don't want to lead to confrontation.

Tugrul Tankut says that he agrees with Branko Zadnik and it is essential to start with a polite contact with Massimo and clarify the situation and his future plans. If we can't achieve a sensible result we have to somehow find a President. He says that President Elect means President to be and he understands that being President for 4,5 years (in case AC assumes the position of President) it is too long. On the other had ECCE can't be without a President but can very well be without a President Elect. We cannot renew the elections for the President Elect alone since the President Elect is elected together with the new Executive Board. He says that it's a very complicated situation and it should be avoided if possible. He continued that it is possible if the General Assembly agrees to shift the timing after the next elections so that President Elect becomes the President now and we continue without a President Elect for a reasonable period at the end of which elections are renewed and the new President Elect appears.

Nicola Monda takes the floor and thanks the General Assembly for allowing him to be present during this discussion. He says that Italy is a founding member of ECCE and CNI had the honor to be a member and his representative to be elected as President. He continues that Massimo Mariani was not elected as an engineer but as a representative of CNI and he thinks that so far CNI does not know anything about it. He says that we all have personal respect for Massimo Mariani but he has a real problem because he lives in the area that was hit by the earthquake and now he

has also been appointed as leader to the National Committee for the earthquakes in Italy. He concludes that he thinks we should inform CNI about this situation so he gets much support from CNI to get him in conditions to finish his mandate as President.

WS says that we have to make a decision concerning the situation with our President. He summarizes that we have an active Executive Board but we need a President as we can't count on our current President. He says that the proposal by the ExBo suggests attempting to contact Massimo Mariani personally in a gentle way asking him about the current situation and what he can predict for the future. If this does not succeed then a letter on behalf of the General Assembly will be sent requesting information about his future plans. In case we can't reach a solution then an official letter will be sent to the CNI President to ask him about his opinion and decision on the topic.

Paul Coughlan says that in the proposal of ECCE ExBo there are three steps: personal contact, letter by GA, letter to CNI President. He asks what comes after the letter to CNI President.

WS replies that if we don't receive a response from CNI then the issue will be open to the General Assembly to cancel the term of office of the current President and make new elections maybe in our autumn GA.

Vincentas Stragys suggests voting even via email if necessary and not wait until our meeting in autumn.

Andreas Bradner takes the floor and suggests another way of managing the situation as he thinks that even with the soft way we lose time. He suggests giving the ExBo under the lead of the President Elect or Past President the vote to continue working and in parallel keeping Massimo Mariani informed about this decision and about the progress of ECCE works without pushing him.

WS says that he can accept the role of Acting President until the GA in October but he needs ratification by the General Assembly for this as we don't have in our bylaws such Article about Acting President. He says that if the GA accepts the situation and gives him the power to act as Acting President he can work until the next GA in Vienna.

Tugrul Tankut says that this is a sensible proposal and that we need to give some flexibility and some free space to move to the President and the ExBo. We don't need to be very strict and rigid with following steps but evaluate the situation along the way.

Vija Geme highlighted that in parallel we need to check our legislation and change it if necessary.

After that voting took place.

Resolution 65.3:

The majority of the ECCE General Assembly votes for two parallel ways of acting. It ratifies Włodzimierz Szymczak to act as ECCE Acting President until the 66th ECCE General Assembly in autumn 2017 and in parallel empowers the ExBo to take the necessary steps in order to clarify the situation about Massimo Mariani's Presidency with Massimo Mariani and CNI.

Czech Republic abstains from voting.

6. ECCE Position Papers

Position Paper on "Infrastructure and management of water"

George Demetriou from Cyprus takes the floor to present the progress made so far regarding the Position Paper on the "Infrastructure and management of water". He says that the **draft Position Paper** has already been distributed to ECCE Members and now he expects comments on this draft. The comments should preferably be in track changes if they are regarding changes in the text. In case a different position is to be expressed then it should be sent in a separate page. He adds that comments must be sent to him and to the ECCE ExBo as well. All the contributors will be communicated all the comments in order for them to be aware of all comments that will be sent. He says that the comments shall be received within one month and also that the executive summary will be prepared after the finalization of the document. The target group of the executive summary will be the non-engineers and the politicians. He says that there is a suggestion to specifically address the role of civil engineers but this need to be revised. The message will be that the problem still exists and there is a need for integrated approach on how to manage water. There is also a suggestion to mention geopolitical influence of water and also a suggestion for cooperation with the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE). George Demetriou informs the GA that some subjects were removed because the Position Paper was too long and broad. He encourages the ECCE Members to send their comments and criticism and contribute to the finalization of this Position Paper. He

Minutes of the 65th General Meeting of the European Council of Civil Engineers

concludes that this Position Paper and Position Papers in general must be reviewed every few years to be up-to-date.

His presentation can be found [here](#).

Tugrul Tankut says that GD has identified a number of important issues on which he expects open ended answers. In this case it is difficult to get the members to write down their opinion in this respect and formulate a general opinion about each item. He alternatively suggests preparing a multiple choice or yes or no questionnaire and maybe including a few questions that require open ended answers in order to facilitate members and receive as many answers as possible.

GD says that it is indeed difficult to collect all the opinions of ECCE members and he is aware of this. He says that they expect two kinds of opinions: either towards leaving things as they are and the management they do now or be against some directives that give guidance on how to do things that is not very well accepted from countries with water scarcity. He says that the questionnaire approach is a good idea.

Paul Coughlan suggests summarizing the recommendations and asking the members' opinion on them.

Murt Coleman says that in the Position Paper it is mentioned that water is a human entitlement and it is not a commercial item but it is a commercial item as we all pay for water.

GD replies that this is a critical point. Water provision is a service and it is the job of engineers to build the infrastructure to deal with this service and at the same time it is a human right and it is not a decision of ECCE but a decision of United Nations. It is a human right to have access to water and sanitary services to ensure it.

Paul Coughlan says that there is an obvious agenda among certain corporations in the world to move towards water being something that is increasingly paid for and he thinks it would be good for ECCE to make a firm statement about this issue.

Aris Chatzidakis comments on the question of right to have access to clean water. In the latest EU Directive there is an obligation for pricing the water services so he thinks that there is some kind of contradiction because if we take into account all these factors suggested in the Directive and the environmental cost and the operation cost, etc. the prices are not affordable. He asks if this problem is tackled in the Position Paper as all authorities that have public character are obliged to apply the Directive.

Andreas Brander says that in this European perspective there is only one item mentioned, if somebody cannot afford clean water then he will get ill and the cost will be much higher. His point of view and the Austrian point of view is that water is a public service and it shouldn't be money-making.

George Demetriou says that in the Directive it is not clear how to deal with the economics of pricing and so there is a discussion now about how to face it. He says that he thinks in the end they will decide to have a minimum quantity for someone to be able to survive, access to an affordable price of water and at the same time those who need more to pay for this.

Position Paper on "Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe"

Jose Francisco Saez Rubio takes the floor to present the progress that he in cooperation with Aris Chatzidakis has made so far. He says that the title of the Position Paper has changed as a response to some activities that have been made by the European Commission. He focuses on the reasons why this Position Paper is needed from ECCE to be able to address these elements regarding the regulations for the professional practice of civil engineering in Europe.

1. Deactivate EC 'reckless' initiatives towards deregulating a profession with justifiable overriding reasons of general interest.
2. Ensure a stable framework as primary requisite to implement extra-EU professional mobility under the coverage of EU's current and future Free Trade Agreements – FTAs
3. Identify potential enhancements and procedure streamlining for the current recognition procedures under Directive 55/2013 on recognition of professional qualifications.

The presentation can be found [here](#).

He says that the first draft will be ready in one or two months but they have put a deadline on themselves to be able to present this Position Paper in the 3rd European Engineers Day which will clearly bring a position in order for

us to clearly assess that the civil engineering may have a different attitude from other branches of engineering but is always committed to have the best type of regulation for providing the best services.

Andreas Bradner asks if this paper also comparable to the paper of ECEC as they also work on the same topic.

JFS replies that there is a need to join forces for addressing the trending topic of how to reduce what they call unnecessary regulation measures and to find a common ground.

Aris Chatzidakis says that we know the argument of ECEC on the need for regulations which an excellent work and we are acting to the same direction but with a different way. He says that he thinks we are in front of some kind of legal storm from the European Commission from the Directive on mobility, the mutual recognition, the provisions of transparency exercise, the new skills agenda, the professional card, etc. He thinks that it is somehow the same effort which is to underestimate the professions which are based on science and it is a pity that the civil engineering profession among others was treated the same way as many other professions in the general Directive which could apply also to any other profession. So, there was a big effort to convince the Community that professions based on science could have another Directive. He says that we didn't succeed this but there is a fixed idea by the Community that if we take out any rule about professions there will be a better situation. He adds that he thinks this is a wrong way not based on any fact and that we should make an attempt to respond with this paper. He thinks that there is no way of magic solutions as they would like to have an automatic system that would recognize anyone who recognizes any other. This is not possible in engineering professions because what is very true in our professions is the tradition, the self-esteem and some ethic aspects which cannot be neglected. He concludes that he thinks that the true battle is the social status of engineers and we should understand it like this.

JFS comments on what AC brought up on the fixation of civil engineering profession. He says that the civil engineering profession has become a fixation to the European Commission for some reason. Whenever they try somehow to end up with a regulation for all engineering branches strangely focus on civil engineering as this is the toughest rock. He says that historically we must be aware that it was this profession that created the need to be able to amend the current professional recognition Directive so the ground for partial recognition. The scope of authorization of the regulation is based on the tradition and the culture of the countries and that requested the need for case law rulings that was brought up in the Directive. He continues that what is currently happening is that the European Commission is completely aware that civil engineering profession is a tough case. According to the transparency exercise there are some rulings for different countries where people are considering being able to apply the same type of resolutions for deregulation on engineers and tourist guides. At the link you can find the **Scope of authorization for civil engineers in Europe**.

George Demetriou suggests approaching the society itself to have their opinion and give it to those who decide about the deregulation. It is a matter that affects society and maybe it is worth making a survey in ECCE and maybe in the WCCE.

JFS says that there is need to be able to fight for the public opinion and the fact for the public opinion is a David and Goliath struggle unless we are able to clearly show what they do have at stake. It is a pity that regulation can only come into stand when there is a disaster. He says that we need good regulation to avoid malpractice. People are completely unaware of what is behind their water tap, the harbors, the traffic lights, etc. and this is something regarding recognition of the engineering profession. He concludes saying that we will still have some low level member of the European Commission who will say that there is no reason of best interest in regulating something so important than the failsafe of public infrastructure.

Murt Coleman thanks JFS and AC and says that the EU language used in the Position Paper is quite difficult to understand so he thinks that using plain English would be more easily understood. He asks firstly if the framework calling for regulation of the profession and secondly how does it suit with the Washington Accord, the Sydney Accord and the Dublin Accord as it seems to be a lot of contradictions there.

JFS says that the Washington Accord, the Sydney Accord and the Dublin Accord are only one of the steps to be able to implement mechanisms regarding professional recognition in the countries. As such is only the first door that gets open on the need to be able to have qualified academic basis and a substantial equivalence to be able to proceed in the recognition process. In the end, it is one of the solutions but it is still far ahead as most of the countries that already accept such recognition are based on countries that already have further requirements than the academic requirements themselves. Regarding MC's first question JFS says that we are not being forced to change our national regulations but what European Commission is doing is bringing up a "just in case" syndrome. The issue here is that the European Commission is always working with leverage with the countries. Unless we are able to demonstrate that we need a final discussion once and for all and that we are really aware of what is happening we will always be somehow narrowed down in situation which we are not comfortable with and the only

issue that will be left is that some national member will end up suing the European Commission with its costs and the European Court of Justice may rule in favor or against and that would be it.

JFS asks the members to send their comments and contributions for this paper to JFS and AC and carbon copy to the General Secretary.

WS asks all the members to be more active and send proposals for ECCE Position Papers and other ECCE activities. He explains that the new Strategy which is implemented during the last one and a half years does not call only for Position Papers but for other activities as well such as organization of workshops, conferences and other events, publication of books, etc. In the Guidelines for Position Papers it is clearly stated that Position Papers and other activities will be treated the same but if this is not clear enough we will change the guidelines and bring the chapter about activities in the beginning of the document instead of having it at the end.

7. Presentation of the Engineering Association of the Mediterranean Countries (EAMC)

Nicola Monda takes the floor and delivers a speech about the Engineering Association of the Mediterranean Countries (EAMC). His presentation can be found [here](#).

Paul Coughlan congratulates Nicola Monda and his colleagues for this Association as he thinks that anything that bridges Europe with Arab countries at the moment is very welcome and we can do this in the engineering profession which is excellent. The question he asks is about one of the greatest challenges that the Mediterranean area is facing providing adequate infrastructure for refugee camps and temporary residential facilities for migrants, access to clean water, etc. He wants to know if this is one of the topics that EAMC is paying attention to.

Nicola Monda says that these are very important items and they can work on them. He says that they have the principle in the EAMC that they can have a Technical Committee on anything but they need some of the National Organization to take care of the results. They have four important Technical Committees because four National Organizations are in charge of the work of these Technical Committees. So, any proposal could be accepted as long as a National Organization takes care of the work.

Tugrul Tankut says that he appreciates the work that is being done by EAMC which although is at an initial stage is beyond his expectations. He understands that EAMC has a Standing Committee structure and they have four or five Standing Committees and a number of members in each of these. He asks if there are any concrete results or any deliverables expected in the near future in a year or so.

Nicola Monda says that in order to get results his idea about EAMC is not to involve with political items but with technical items. He says that they are working on technical items and can get results. He has realized that in the Arab region they are not at our level as far as technical knowledge is concerned. He says that they intend to organize conferences to transfer this knowledge to these countries that are very interested in the EAMC's ideas as they need a more advanced technical culture. He says that in these countries they have funds but they need the input from engineers to show them how to carry out their projects. He adds that they also work on the mobility, qualification and accreditation.

Aris Chatzidakis says that the idea that was launched in the EAMC meeting (and this is why they had invited the Minister of Maritime and Port Authorities of Greece) is that if one looks at the map Crete is very close to Africa but there is no ship connection. And if you look at the East Mediterranean countries there is no ship connection among them although they are very close which is very strange as historically there were many Cretans living in Egypt or Egyptians living in Crete for example. The idea is that infrastructure that would make such connections easy is missing and EAMC's goal is to suggest new projects on this direction.

8. WCCE – UNESCO Partnership Agreement presentation

Tugrul Tankut makes a brief introduction of the topic. He says that a collaboration agreement was signed last March between WCCE and UNESCO and as the Executive Director of WCCE Jose Francisco Saez Rubio has taken a significant part in preparation and signing of the agreement he has more details and will make a presentation on the topic.

JFS delivers his presentation on the WCCE and UNESCO Partnership Agreement which can be found [here](#).

Tugrul Tankut gives a remark that in WCCE they developed a proposal concerning drafting a Seismic code specific for heritage structures and this proposal was discussed between WCCE and ICOMOS Italy. They understood each other and at the end they signed a Memorandum of Understanding between ICOMOS Italy and WCCE. Then, he says that they sent the Agreement to UNESCO and things got very complicated. In the end they were thinking of putting this Memorandum of Understanding under the umbrella of the general agreement but they never succeeded simply because UNESCO is extremely reluctant about this specific case.

Saturday 3rd June 2017

9. Approval of ECCE Statutory & Management Accounts until 31 December 2016

Dimitar Natchev ECCE Vice President/Treasurer takes the floor and presents the ECCE Statutory & Management Accounts until 31 December 2016.

He says that responsible for the accounts of 2016 are ECCE President in 2016 Włodzimierz Szymczak and ECCE Vice President/Treasurer in 2016 Vija Geme. He comments that it is good that the year closed with a positive balance with a surplus of around 20,000 Euros.

WS comments that the surplus of 20,000 Euros is not only a result of our good management but also a result of cutting some of our activities. For example, he says, we didn't have to pay anything for the Position Papers as we didn't finish any during 2016 and we didn't have any special costs to cover as result of our activities. So, he thinks that this year in 2017 we will not close the year with a surplus but this will mean that we are carrying out some of our statutory duties and goals.

Resolution 65.4:

The ECCE Statutory & Management Accounts until 31 December 2016 are unanimously approved by the ECCE General Assembly.

10. ECCE Management Accounts until end of May 2017

Dimitar Natchev presents the ECCE Management Accounts until end of May 2017 to the General Assembly just for information. He starts with the ECCE subscription fees for 2017 informing the audience that membership fees for 2017 have been by the 17% of the ECCE Member countries. He continues explaining about the problem ECCE faced with its account and the protocols that were followed. For a certain period of time ECCE payments were made by the ICE bank account and not the ECCE bank account. ECCE ExBo did all necessary actions to solve this issue and now the situation is fine and the accumulated amount has been already paid to ICE. He concludes saying that at this stage ECCE does not have any financial problems.

WS takes the floor and explains the situation regarding the ECCE bank account. He says that in order for any payment to be made by ECCE account apart from the authorization from ECCE a signatory from ICE is needed. Due to fact that the ICE signatories we had assigned in the past were not based in the London offices and the payment process would take a really long time, ICE made the payments from their account. This way the signatories would not be needed as often because the transfer of the accumulated amount would be made once a year or so. WS says that recently Sean Harris who is London based became ECCE signatory and the normal function of the ECCE bank account is restored now.

Paul Coughlan asks if there is deadline for the payment of the annual fees.

Huseyin Kaya (General Secretary of the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers) comments that the ECCE annual budget of 65,000 Euros is very small. Then, he asks if we are planning on any project to increase our budget.

WS replies to Huseyin Kaya that our budget is indeed very modest and that we are trying to deal with the budget we have. One solution would be to increase the membership fees but the members would not be happy with this. He says it is difficult to assess what else we could do to increase our budget.

Huseyin Kaya suggests that we could organize education courses and issue certificates for engineers in order to collect money.

WS says that in Turkey this is possible in accordance with the local law, but in case of ECCE it would be difficult because it is a non-profit organization, it is not a firm but an organization of public trust. He says that this status gives us very limited possibility to earn money. He mentions the example of the ECCE Card project which we started to implement but not with big success until now.

WS replies to Paul Coughlan's question saying that we are always struggling to collect the fees. We usually send the invoices at the beginning of each year and we ask for the payment to be made before the spring General Assembly of each year. After a few months we send reminders to the ones that haven't paid.

Vija Geme says that the ECCE fees should be paid within the first 6 months of each year because it is necessary to plan ECCE finances.

11. Georgian Society of Civil Engineers proposal for Seismic Center in Georgia

Iuri Svanidze ECCE, ExBo Member and President of the Georgian Society of Civil Engineers, takes the floor. Iuri Svanidze welcomes the delegates on behalf of the Georgian Society of Civil Engineers and introduces the topic of discussion which is the establishment of an International Seismic Centre in Georgia under the umbrella of the European Council of Civil Engineers and the World Council of Civil Engineers. He says that he has contacted the Institution of Civil Engineers (UK), the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE), as well as the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He has been also in contact with Prof. Tugrul Tankut from Turkey who provided him with very important materials on seismic protection of cultural heritage. He continues that in June 2013 during the 57th ECCE GM Executive Board meeting they had a presentation about the SEIC and their views. Then, he refers to the Declaration that was signed back in 2014 during the 59th ECCE General Meeting in Tbilisi, Georgia signed by ECCE, WCCE and GSCE Presidents. In this Declaration it was mentioned that it is important to establish in Georgia a Seismic Engineering International Centre (SEIC) that gives the possibility with the participation of local and leading international specialists to prepare the seismic professional training of civil engineers, to improve their qualifications, status and prestige leading to a contribution in structures' protection against earthquakes. He says that the Government of Georgia and the Tbilisi City Hall support the establishment of SEIC. He concludes saying that the support of the European Council of Civil Engineers and the World Council of Civil Engineers is necessary for achieving the establishment of such Center in Georgia. The project proposal can be found [here](#).

Then, Prof. Mirian Kalabegishvili takes the floors and delivers a presentation about the SEIC. The presentation can be found [here](#).

WS asked the ECCE GA to vote for endorsing the proposal on the establishment of SEIC under the umbrella of the European Council of Civil Engineers.

Resolution 65.5:

The ECCE General Assembly unanimously approves the endorsement of the proposal of the Georgian Society of Civil Engineers regarding the establishment of a Seismic Engineering International Centre (SEIC) in Georgia under the umbrella of the European Council of Civil Engineers.

(This endorsement does not constitute any commitment on behalf of ECCE and does not give rise to any financial obligation or any other type of resources commitment on the part of ECCE. ECCE is not obliged to execute any kind of agreement or document, or to cover any costs incurred by GSCE or any third party. Therefore, no obligation and/or responsibility, including but not limited to financial obligation / responsibility should be imposed to ECCE)

12. Forthcoming ECCE General Meetings

WS informed the GA about the planned forthcoming ECCE General Meetings.

- The 66th ECCE General Meeting will be held in Vienna, Austria in the beginning of October 2017 close to the 3rd European Engineers' Day.
- The 67th ECCE General Meeting will be held in Tallinn, Estonia in the spring 2018.
- The 68th ECCE General Meeting will be held in London, U.K. in the end of October 2018.

Ingrid Farmer, national delegate from the Institution of Civil Engineers (U.K.) delivered a presentation on the 200th Anniversary of ICE that will be celebrated in 2018. The 200th ICE Anniversary will be celebrated together with the 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers during 2018 and it will conclude in a big celebration of civil engineering that will combine the 200th ICE Anniversary, the 50th WFEO Celebration, the triennial gathering of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and the 68th ECCE GM which will also be the closing of the 2018 EYCE. Ingrid Farmer explained the idea, the goals and the projects that are planned to take place in 2018 as part of the 200th ICE Anniversary. The presentation can be found [here](#).

13. Other issues

WS asks Mr. Hermann Sturm, ECCE Honorary Vice President and President of the ECCE Associate Member ZDI to take the floor.

Hermann Sturm takes the floor. He says that he has been in ECCE since 1992 and he believes that ECCE is a success for the European Market and that there is history about ECCE. He mentions that he was engaged in ECCE activities in France, UK, Spain and Greece. He talks about the problems we have in Brussels as the real power is in this part and it is necessary for us to have contacts in the Commission. He refers to Mr. Karlheinz Zachmann who was working in the Commission for 40 years and had contacts and was also participating in ECCE. He thinks that in the future ECCE should establish contacts with the European construction industry because we must work together. He thinks that need its influence on the European ideas, laws, rules and Directives. He says that in ECCE we all come as trustees on behalf of ECCE members and as such we need success and successful civil engineers. He says that in Europe we have different systems. In U.K. for example there are big companies with thousands of employees; in Germany most companies are small with maximum ten employees and therefore the European Market has a lot of differentiations. Then, he refers to education. He says that in the future we must trust in the quality and experience of all Universities in Europe and the European engineers are high-level well educated engineers. He says that what we need is influence in Brussels because if you have no influence you have no power. ECCE must have a future and make politics for engineers and not politics for politics. He believes that ECCE must expand and attract all the countries in Europe. He says that Vassilis Economopoulos made the basement of ECCE as he had good connections in the European Commission and the surplus of 300,000 Euros is partly due to his activity. He thinks that ECCE has low membership fees and that we should consider the idea of increasing them in the future. He thinks that we need a bigger budget in order to be able to influence and to be successful. He concludes saying that we need a better Europe and for this we need a successful organization named ECCE with good connections in European Commission. In order to achieve this we need participation of all European countries and a bigger budget.

WS thanks Hermann Sturm for his intervention. He says that he thinks it is very important to dedicate some time in each GA for discussion about the future and which direction we should go and how to achieve this as this is fundamental for us.

Paul Coughlan welcomes the comments of Hermann Sturm as he thinks they are good observations about ECCE. He believes that it is a good time for ECCE to reevaluate its mission and its goals in the future. He continues saying that if the organization had a certain vision it could attract more countries which is also very important for ECCE. He says that there are many challenges for engineers today, for example the USA leaving the Paris Agreement and we have a huge role to play in that area and this is something that ECCE can think. Another area of consideration is the digital revolution.

Aris Chatzidakis says that he agrees with Hermann Sturm that we need to have a better contact with the construction industry and this is something that we have already started doing by inviting the FIEC President Jean-Louis Marchand to speak as one of the ECCE keynote speakers in the 3rd European Engineers Day. So this is a first important step for the mutual comprehension between our organization and the construction industry. Another interesting thing is the policy on the strategy for the construction sector within which Building Information Modeling (BIM) is addressed. Currently, each country elaborates its own model but he thinks it is a pity to have sophisticated models in each country. He says that this is an item that ECCE should also address because if we want a common market we also need a common BIM across all European countries.

Tugrul Tankut makes a proposal about inviting Karlheinz Zachmann attend our meeting in Vienna. He says that Karlheinz Zachmann was a very committed and enthusiastic member. Then, he asks if we have considered evaluating the two different ECCE structure systems.

Aris Chatzidakis suggests inviting also Vassilis Economopoulos' wife Anna to Vienna reminding everyone the contribution of Vassilis Economopoulos to ECCE.

Murt Coleman says that as an observer he is impressed that we are discussing the future of ECCE and when he goes back to Ireland he will transfer all this to Engineers Ireland as it would be important and attractive to them. He says that he believes that ECCE should be more in line with process and also connect more with Brussels. He says he would encourage ECCE to look at its vision, business plan and strategy as it is very important.

WS says that Hermann Sturm said that we need more members, which is true. He says that he started negotiations with many countries. Some of the joined ECCE but others were not successful such as the case with Netherlands. He says that after negotiations and skype meetings they responded that although our organization seems interesting they would consider joining only when more western European countries will have joined ECCE and when we have become more powerful. WS says that we don't want such kind of members but members who are willing and enthusiastic to work for ECCE and contribute to each evolvement into a more powerful organization. Regarding the close relations with the construction industry he reminds the audience that he has asked in the past

all the ECCE members to try to attract at least two companies as Associate Members but without any result. He says that he is a little bit disappointed with some of the ECCE members who seem reluctant to work and sacrifice something for ECCE and they are only asking what the value for their money. He believes that this is a silly question to ask if you are not willing to be active and contribute to ECCE.

JFS takes the floor. He says that he concurs with WS that there is a problem here on the "ECCE ship" having two different types of people around; either sailors or passengers but we are not a cruise line. It is the other way round, what ECCE is doing for us and what do we want to do for ECCE because everybody is thinking about the assessment, proposals and the only thing that is happening is increasing our workload. Even assessing or reassessing requires work and he is not sure how this work can be addressed by the staff of only one person, at least the commitment of the ExBo members and a General Assembly constituted by these delegates meeting twice a year. If we are not able to connect ECCE to our National Organizations and the only contact is the delegates, it is no use whatsoever. The only way to be able to earn respect in the European Commission is work. Last, he brings up an issue regarding the fees. He says that the fees do not bring the level of commitment in our organization. He says that it's better to use "I will undertake this proposal" rather than saying that something needs to be done.

WS says that we have two ways in front of us. One way is to meet twice a year to spend nice three days together and like each other, have meetings and personal relations and opinions. The other way is taking advantage of our one asset which is our members, their energy and willingness to sacrifice some time and effort to offer to ECCE. What ECCE can provide to its members and share with them depends on what the members are willing to produce and offer to ECCE. The first way has mostly a touristic and social aspect which is also important but the second one involves the activity of our members and the results we get from them. He says that this is the main reason he has been asking the members repeatedly and sending letters reminding them this idea and asking for cooperation. He says that the result has been very poor. He closes asking ECCE members for last time to be active and get involved with ECCE.

Andreas Bradner says that we have to be aware who we are working for. He says that for him ECCE is the single civil engineer and his status in the society and he thinks that the problems are the same in each country. He says that we need a strong organization to change something but the change must come also from each single engineer (not only the ones that participate here in ECCE). What we could do is give some ideas to colleagues how we can manage to push up the social status in society because we as engineers must be aware that we do a big deal for the society and the future and we don't present that in any adequate way. He concludes saying that we shouldn't lose our main goal.

Alois Materna says that he was thinking about the organizations. He says that it's a little bit complicated situations. There are three types of organizations, compulsory, voluntary membership and some of the voluntary organizations are also allowed to give the chartered engineers the authority to do project, etc. There is another organization ECEC which is involved only in project preparation and realization of other structures. He suggests that we cooperate with them in projects realization e.g. on BIM as he thinks that it would bring valuable results for ECCE and engineers.

WS mentions that one of the proposals of Hermann Sturm was that we should have closer contact with construction companies and also to work on having influence to Brussels. He says that having influence in Brussels was one of his goals from the beginning of his Presidency but this is not so easy to achieve. One reason is the high cost and other one is input. He says that we have to have in our hands important deliverables such as Position Papers to show them to Brussels because we don't need representation for talking to our politics in Brussels, we have to present them Position Papers on all important aspects of civil engineering in order to lobby in Brussels. He says that now we are just in the beginning of this process as we are trying to implement the new ECCE strategy and concentrate on the preparation of Position Papers on the important topics of civil engineering and then we will make efforts to find a representation in Brussels.

Murt Coleman says that a few years ago when he was involved in ECCE we were part of an organization called European Construction Forum (ECF). He says that it was a good way of finding out what was happening in Brussels and he believes that it would be for ECCE to join back. He also says that he can't find what we could do for a construction company as we don't have anything to offer them. In the end, he encourages ECCE to look at the future, to have a vision and a business plan.

14. Official close of the 65th ECCE General Meeting

The 65th ECCE General Meeting is officially closed by the ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak.

Minutes prepared by: Maria Karanasiou
ECCE General Secretary