

MINUTES of the 67th GENERAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

31st May and 2nd June 2018, Tallinn, Estonia

PARTICIPANTS:

Executive Board (National Delegate = ND):

Surname, First name		ND	Member Organization	Country
Szymczak, Włodzimierz	Acting President	1 st ND	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	Member	1 st ND	Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
Piirsalu, Andres	Member	1 st ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Karanasiou, Maria	General Secretary		-	Greece

Apologies:

Svanidze, Iuri	Member		Georgian Society of Civil Engineers	Georgia
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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
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
Stylianou	Platonas	1 st ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Theodotou	Andreas	2 nd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Kutruza	Bora	3 rd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Materna	Alois	1 st ND	Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians	Czech Republic
Ruben	Tiia	2 nd ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Ots	Kaspar	3 rd ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Matikainen	Yrjö	1 st Inv. Ass.	Finnish Association of Civil Engineers / ECCE Honorary President	Finland
Ahrens	Carsten	1 st D AM	Zentralverband Deutscher Ingenieure e.V. - ZDI	Germany
Charlaftis	Paris	1 st ND	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Geme	Vija	1 st ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Hendriksone	Helena	2 nd ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Stragys	Vincentas	1 st ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Stragys	Vincentas	1 st ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Žymantas	Rudžionis	2 nd ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Muñoz Abela	Jeanette Mireille	1 st ND	Kamra Tal-Periti	Malta
Knezevic	Milos	1 st ND	Montenegrin Chamber of Engineers	Montenegro
Radulovic	Olga	2 nd ND	Montenegrin Chamber of Engineers	Montenegro
Radulovic	Olga	2 nd ND	Montenegrin Chamber of Engineers	Montenegro
Edgar Rodrigues Riberinho Soares	Paulo	1 st ND	Order of Engineers	Portugal
Manuel de Almeida Santos	Fernando	2 nd ND	Order of Engineers	Portugal

Bitca	Daniel	1 st D AM	Romanian Association of Civil Engineers	Romania
Lachinov	Mikhail	1 st ND	Russian Society of Civil Engineers – Moscow Department	Russia
Zamytsky	Nikolay	2 nd ND	Russian Society of Civil Engineers – Moscow Department	Russia
Tiurin	Oleg	3 rd ND	Russian Society of Civil Engineers – Moscow Department	Russia
Moravcik	Lubos	1 st ND	Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovak Republic
Zadnik	Branko	1 st ND	Slovenian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovenia
Humar	Gorazd	2 nd ND	Slovenian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovenia
Gasca Cuota	Carlos	2 nd ND	Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
Coughlan	Paul	1 st ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK
Farmer	Ingrid	2 nd ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK
Colon	Emilio	1 st Inv. Ass.	WCCE	Spain
Al-Hadithi	Adil	1 st Inv. Ass.	EAMC	Egypt
Monda	Nicola	2 nd Inv. Ass.	EAMCE	Italy

Apologies:

Surname, First name / Member Organization

Delaporte, Brice
Szollossy, Gabor
Jovanovic, Ranka

Country

France
Hungary
Serbia

Thursday 31st May 2018

1. Opening of the Meeting

ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak opens the meeting welcoming all the participants and cordially thanking the Estonian Association of Civil Engineers (EEL) for hosting our 67th ECCE General Meeting and for organizing the International Conference "Civil Engineering and Cultural Heritage" as part of the European Year of Civil Engineers. He cordially welcomes the special guests of this meeting namely EEL President Margo Dengo, EEL President Elect Kaspar Ots, ECCE Honorary President Yrjö Matikainen, WCCE Past President Emilio Colon, EAMC President Adil Al Hadithi and EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda. He wishes everyone a successful meeting and pleasant stay in Tallinn.

Then, the EEL President Margo Dengo takes the floor to address an opening speech. During his speech Margo Dengo gives a brief overview of the Estonian Association of Civil Engineers providing information regarding the history of EEL, its members, its functions as well as the challenges that Civil Engineers in Estonia are called to face nowadays. He mentions that EEL was founded in 1991 and joined ECCE in 1999. They have two groups of members, individual civil engineers and different kinds of Associations. They have currently roughly 1100 members which is the 10% of the active civil engineers in Estonia. The intention of EEL is to unite one day all the civil engineers in Estonia. EEL also issues professional certificates in Estonia. He also presents the aspirations and the ambitions of EEL. In the end he wishes a fruitful meeting and Conference.

2. Introduction of ECCE Members

At this point Włodzimierz Szymczak gives the floor to the representatives of the Full and Associate ECCE Members to present themselves and the delegation of their organization to ECCE. Additionally, the invited Associations to the ECCE 67th ECCE GM take the floor and address a short speech. Participants are listed in the first couple of pages of the document.

3. Introduction and acceptance of potential new ECCE members

Włodzimierz Szymczak informs the participants that the Russian Society of Civil Engineers have recovered their membership in ECCE. RSCE have paid their subscription fees from the previous years and they continue normally as ECCE Full Members with full rights.

Then, Włodzimierz Szymczak informs the participants regarding the application we have received from the University of Business and Technology from Kosovo who wish to join ECCE as Associate Members. He mentions that the Executive Board decided the previous day that at this point we are not fully prepared to take such a decision and that we will postpone this decision for the next ECCE General Meeting. In the meanwhile, we will seek for further information and clarifications on this application.

4. 66th ECCE General Meeting minutes approval

Maria Karanasiou takes the floor and mentions that the minutes from the 66th ECCE General Meeting had been disseminated in advance of the General Meeting and comments were requested. Since no comments or amendments were suggested the General Assembly is called to vote for the approval of the minutes.

Resolution 67.1:

The Minutes of the 66th ECCE General Meeting in Vienna are unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

The minutes of the 66th ECCE General Meeting can be found [here](#).

5. ECCE brief activity report since October 2017

Włodzimierz Szymczak mentions that the ECCE brief activity report since October 2017 will be presented collectively with the participation of the ExBo members and all the persons involved. The ECCE brief activity report since October 2017 can be found [here](#).

6. 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers – status report

Włodzimierz Szymczak presents the ECCE initiative to mark 2018 as the European Year of Civil Engineers. He starts by giving some background information regarding the conception of the idea and how it developed until it was realized. Then, he presents the goals of this initiative and the way ECCE has planned to meet these goals. After this, he goes on referring briefly to each of the events that were held as part of the EYCE. The presentation can be found [here](#).

ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Aris Chatzidakis, at the end of the presentation, announces that the Technical Chamber of Greece is planning to co-organize an event with the Association of Civil Engineers of Greece as part of the European Year of Civil Engineers. This event titled "From Ancient Greek Technology to the Smart Cities of tomorrow. Civil Engineering and its role in the history of construction" will be held on September 27, 2018, at the premises of the Eugenides Foundation, in Athens. At the same time of the event, an exhibition with models that are part of the collection of the Association for the Study of Ancient Greek Technology, and the animation film of "Diolkos 1500 years" will be presented.

7. 68th ECCE General Meeting and Global Engineering Congress – status report

Ingrid Farmer takes the floor to present the progress update regarding the Global Engineering Congress that will be held from 22 – 26 October 2018, in London, U.K. She reminds everyone that the Global Engineering Congress will be held as part of the celebration of the 200th ICE Anniversary, the 50th WFEO Anniversary, the 68th ECCE GM as well as the triennial with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. She refers to the UN's Sustainability Goals explaining that on September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years.

The onus for achieving these goals is on everyone, governments, the private sector, and civil society.

For the GEC, ICE has picked out the five that are in their gift to help solve:

- Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Then, Ingrid gives a brief overview of the 5-day programme, outlines the benefits of attending the GEC and encourages everyone to share the information about the GEC with their contacts and to participate in this event. The presentation can be found [here](#).

8. European Construction Forum Joint Manifesto on Digitalisation

Włodzimierz Szymczak mentions that the final draft of the ECF Joint Manifesto on Digitalisation has been already disseminated to all for their information but ratification of the document is necessary from the General Assembly. He gives that floor to Paul Coughlan who participated in the working group for preparing the Manifesto in order to say a few words before the document is put for voting.

Paul Coughlan takes the floor saying that he has contributed to this paper being part of the working group for its preparation. His opinion is that this manifesto is an important piece of work that will be brought in front of the European Commission and the various key stakeholders in Europe. He mentions that the main points that are set out in the manifesto is the need to be more proactive as far as digitalization of the construction sector is concerned in Europe, the need for an appropriate regulatory framework on data policy, and the need for the new EU budget to focus on digital skills, R&D and deployment of IT infrastructure.

The ECF Joint Manifesto on Digitalisation can be found [here](#).

Then, Włodzimierz Szymczak asks the National Delegates of the ECCE Members to vote on the ratification of this document.

Resolution 67.2:

The 67th ECCE General Assembly unanimously ratifies the ECF Joint Manifesto on Digitalisation.

9. Madrid Declaration: Water: the future we want

Włodzimierz Szymczak mentions that the Madrid Declaration 2018, in continuation of the Madrid Declaration 2016, focuses on the field of water which is one of the sensitive sectors for sustainable development and the adaptation to it. The World Federation of Engineering Organizations - (WFEO), World Council of Civil Engineers- WCCE, European Federation of Engineering Organizations - FEANI, European Council of Civil Engineers - ECCE, Council of Civil Engineering Professional Associations of Spanish And Portuguese Speaking Countries - CICPC-CECPC, Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (Spanish Council of Civil Engineers) - CICCPC and Asociación de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (Spanish Association of Civil Engineers) – AICCP have committed by signing this document to try to meet the challenges of engineering for climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions on the field of water.

The document has been disseminated in advance to the ECCE Members and Włodzimierz Szymczak asks them to vote for the ratification of the Madrid Declaration 2018 "Water: The future we want" which can be found [here](#).

Resolution 67.3:

The 67th ECCE General Assembly unanimously ratifies the Madrid Declaration 2018 Water: The future we want.

10. World Construction Forum 2019

ECCE General Secretary Maria Karanasiou takes the floor to briefly present the forthcoming event of the World Construction Forum 2019. She mentions that the World Construction Forum 2019 "Buildings and Infrastructure Resilience" will be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from April 8 – 11, 2019. The event is jointly organized by the Slovenian Chamber of Engineers (IZS) under the auspices of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and by the Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering of the University of Ljubljana (UL FGG) with cooperation of several further international and national organizations and associations. The WCF2019 is dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Ljubljana Engineers Chamber predecessor of the Slovenian Chamber of Engineers and to the 100th Anniversary of the University of Ljubljana.

The organizers of WCF2019 have invited ECCE to be a co-organizer of the event. Cooperation brings no financial burden for ECCE. Nevertheless, it is foreseen that the ECCE President is a member of the Honorary Committee and ECCE's logo is used on the Event's website as well as in all flyers, brochures, booklets, etc. ECCE should also inform and invite its members to this Event and forward them information that will be sent to us in the near future.

In cooperation with ECCE the forum will gain, with no doubt, on significance and indicate the importance of including engineer's knowledge, practices and role of engineers. Cooperation will also be a unique opportunity for ECCE to present and promote itself to the participants of the Forum from Slovenia and worldwide.

ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak asks ECCE members to vote in order to ratify ECCE's participation and role in the WCF2019.

Resolution 67.4:

The 67th ECCE General Assembly unanimously ratifies ECCE's participation as a co-organizer in the World Construction Forum 2019.

Further information regarding the WCF2019 can be found [here](#).

11. FEANI Engineers' Europe Advisory Group

ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Aris Chatzidakis takes the floor to introduce the topic. He says that the correspondence that has been exchanged with FEANI and all the relative documents regarding the Engineers'

Europe Advisory Group have been already disseminated to all. This FEANI initiative is based on the idea that the engineers must try to have a unique voice in Europe to fight for their interests. He informs the audience that currently there is an open invitation to ECCE to participate in a meeting on 11th June, in Brussels, where we will have the opportunity to discuss the EEAG initiative and to get our questions answered. The ECCE ExBo has discussed the topic and concluded that FEANI's initiative is reasonable and we share the goal of engineers having a unique voice in Europe but still there are a lot of matters to be clarified and questions to be answered on the procedures, etc. so ECCE is not ready at the moment to decide whether to join this Group or not. AC informs the audience that the ExBo decided that attending this meeting is worthwhile and is trying to figure out who will represent ECCE in this meeting depending on the availability of the ExBo members.

ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak informs the delegates that during the second part of the ExBo meeting we will take the final decision regarding ECCE's representation in the EEAG meeting in Brussels. He adds that at the moment there is nothing for the General Assembly to ratify because the ExBo doesn't have a solid proposal yet, so this point of the Agenda must be treated as informational only.

12. ECCE Position Papers

ECCE book "The history and the role of civil engineers through the centuries"

WS says that the ECCE ExBo has approved the proposal for the creation of an ECCE book titled "The history and the role of civil engineers through the centuries" and AC will bring some updated information regarding the progress of this initiative.

AC takes the floor. He says that the Working Group for the book will have a meeting on Friday after the end of the Conference to take a final decision regarding the core and the contents of the book. The aim of this book is to present the principal steps of the evolution of Civil Engineering and it will be issued as a contribution to the European Year of Civil Engineers and to also complement the bylaws of the European Council of Civil Engineers showing the common heritage of Civil Engineers.

Platonas Stylianou who submitted this idea to the ExBo takes the floor. He mentions that the book is based on the notes of AC which have been already translated from Greek to English language. He adds that some materials from the latest two books of ECCE ("Civil Engineering Heritage in Europe" and "Footbridges – small is beautiful") will be also used and that some small contributions are also expected from the ECCE members. He says that it is a tough task as the book must be ready in October to be presented in the 68th ECCE General Meeting and the Global Engineering Congress which will conclude the European Year of Civil Engineers.

Gorazd Humar who is also member of the Working Group for the book takes the floor. He says that he is happy that such a book is being prepared and that he appreciates the work of AC. He mentions that this is a good analysis of the work of Civil Engineers through the centuries and that the role of Civil Engineers should focus on the future but also respect the past.

Position Paper "The need for Structural / Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings in parallel with Energy Efficiency Improvements"

WS says that the ExBo discussed the proposal that was submitted by Platonas Stylianou (PS) and resulted that the issue will be approached differently than described in the original proposal.

PS takes the floor. He starts by saying that the decision of the ExBo was to make the Position Paper simpler and divide it into two different Position Papers, so he will try to present the topic based on the results of the discussion with ECCE ExBo. He says that the majority of the existing building stock, mainly in the Mediterranean countries and also in other European countries, suffers from the lack of seismic resistance and at the same time of energy efficiency. Given that the regions where these buildings are experience high and frequent seismic activity and high temperatures it becomes a necessity to proceed with upgrading measures as part of the refurbishment process as well. So, these measures are expected to improve the resilience of the existing building stock in an economical and feasible way to reduce the operational expenses and to contribute to the sustainability of the society and the environment. So, the new proposal has a new goal: to produce a simple and more engineering oriented Position Paper using simple language emphasizing on the need to structurally reinforce existing buildings that were built many years ago possibly with outdated codes or without any code at all. We need to raise awareness of the problem to society as the safety is one of the six essential requirements mentioned in the Eurocodes and it defines a way of living. We need to live in a safe, sound and secure building. PS says that it is also well-known that if buildings are cladded and insulated then they may look better and new but the underlying structural issues remain

hidden and unseen and they are not structurally sound. So, buildings may become life threatening especially in the case of a seismic event leading to a possible failure or collapse. If that occurs, it means that the EU funding spent for energy upgrade of the building will be lost. Such cases have been identified in Italy L' Aquila, in Cyprus, in Greece, in Turkey, etc. In order to raise awareness on this issue we have to look at the numbers as well in a pure economic sense. So, the steps that we need to follow are the following:

- Collect the numbers in a financial sense. Cost for repairs, fatalities, etc. following an earthquake.
- Present the results to the European Construction Forum (ECF) and to Brussels, to the Commissioners and if needed to other people that can influence them.
- Lobbying trying to persuade the politicians and to raise the awareness that is necessary.
- Starting point will be the state and government buildings as it is easier to convince the government that has to take earthquake efficiency measures and upgrade together with energy efficiency for these building than for the private sector. Then, we will proceed with public buildings which gather many people in them like theatres, cinemas, shopping malls, etc.
- Find a way to convince EU for funding either separately for the structural upgrade or combined for structural and energy efficiency.
- When the first Position Paper is finalized and accepted a second Position Paper will follow which will be more scientific and academic one. This will deal with the proposal of standard assessment methods in order to assess and review the level of safety of an existing building, to establish criteria for target performance level of the selected materials and solution of the seismic performance of buildings and for the energy refurbishment of these buildings, identify both innovative and traditional materials and techniques providing both seismic and energy upgrading of an existing building and ways to combine them and finally to identify the current situation in all the EU countries regarding this issue and whether they have any special politic or guidelines for this issue.

AC takes the floor to clarify some aspects of the proposal. He says that the first step that was decided is a Position Paper addressed mainly to those who are responsible for the current situation which identifies the energy efficiency as more important than life safety. He stresses that responsibility must be taken regarding these choices and life safety must become a priority without diminishing the importance of energy efficiency. Secondly, society must be addressed and be made aware of the importance of structural safety of the buildings. He adds that currently there is an initiative in Brussels "Smart financing for smart buildings" where safety is out totally out of the picture. Currently, when energy upgrade of buildings takes place the funding for works regarding the structural safety of the buildings is prohibited and this must be changed. AC says that we must clarify to the decision makers that they need to take responsibility about it as they allocate funding ignoring the first essential requirement of their directives which is life safety. He ends saying that the Working Group is open and that we must seek contributions from our members.

Branko Zadnik (Slovenia) takes the floor. He says that he supports the idea of this Position Paper. He mentions that in Slovenia although it is a seismic region nobody wants to hear about structural renovation and they are only energy efficiency oriented. He says that we must put pressure to Brussels regarding this matter.

Andreas Theodotou (Cyprus) says that he also thinks that it is a very important Position Paper as most European countries focus only to the energy efficiency improvement of buildings but we also need to focus on the seismic rehabilitation of the existing buildings.

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

WS says that this Position Paper was officially adopted during our 66th ECCE General Meeting in Vienna, but after Vienna some enhancements to the text were made. The ExBo has reviewed and accepted the final version of this Position Paper which was also disseminated to the ECCE Members. At this point WS asks the ECCE Members to vote for adoption of the final version of the Position Paper on "Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe".

Resolution 67.5:

The 67th ECCE General Assembly unanimously approves the adoption of the Position Paper on "Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe" as ECCE Position Paper.

Saturday 2nd June 2018

13. ECCE Financial reports

ECCE Vice President/Treasurer Dimitar Natchev takes the floor to present the ECCE financial matters.

There are two points for consideration. The first point is the ECCE Statutory and Management Accounts (Directors' report) until the end of 2017 which needs to be approved by the General Assembly. The second point is the ECCE Management Accounts until May 2018 which is just informative.

The Directors' report for 2017 results in a positive balance of approximately €16.000.

Resolution 67.6:

The ECCE Statutory and Management Accounts for 2017 were unanimously approved by the ECCE General Assembly.

Dimitar Natchev during his report for the ECCE Management Accounts until May 2018 mentions that the members that have not paid their membership fees yet are the following: Georgia, Greece, Serbia, Russia and Ukraine. He says that according to his opinion Ukraine cannot be considered as ECCE member because they haven't paid any subscription fees to ECCE so far. He adds that Italy has resigned from ECCE and therefore we will have minus €9.000 in our accounts but on the other hand Russia has joined ECCE again and paid their debt from previous years (€12.000). He concluded that at this stage stands well financially-wise.

ECCE Acting President takes the floor to inform the General Assembly regarding the latest developments with the Ukrainian membership to ECCE. He says that just the previous day he received an email from Mr. Nickolay Kirjukhin saying that the Ukrainian Council of Civil Engineers was recently established and they intend to join ECCE representing the Ukrainian Civil Engineers. The previous member from Ukraine "Information Technologies in the Construction of Ukraine" is not a real ECCE Member according to ECCE rules as they didn't pay any subscription fees as it was mentioned by Vice President/Treasurer Dimitar Natchev. That said, the membership of the "Information Technologies in the Construction of Ukraine" will be terminated and the Ukrainian Council of Civil Engineers will join ECCE in its place. Mr. Nickolay Kirjukhin promised that this new Ukrainian member will be active in ECCE and will fulfill their financial obligations to ECCE.

14. ECCE ExBo Elections Guidelines

Włodzimierz Szyczak says that the ECCE ExBo Elections Guidelines will be presented and approved by the General Assembly so that the process is transparent and comprehended by all ECCE members.

Maria Karanasiou takes the floor to present the ECCE ExBo Elections Guidelines which can be accessed [here](#).

Resolution 67.7:

The ECCE ExBo Elections Guidelines were unanimously approved by the ECCE General Assembly.

15. UNESCO STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA) Project

ExBo Member and WCCE Executive Director Jose Francisco Saez Rubio takes the floor to present the UNESCO SAGA Project which is a joint project of UNESCO and WCCE. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

He says that in a few weeks an online survey will be launched in order to collect data disaggregated by sex and age on:

- Professional registration applications
- Registered professionals
- Professional section and status

He requests that all ECCE Members complete this survey.

16. Jose Medem Civil Engineering Excellence Award

JFS presents the WCCE initiative Jose Medem Civil Engineering Excellence Award. This is an award that WCCE has been cherishing since its inception. This award was launched on the grounds that there is no specific global award for civil engineers not only on the aspect of great professionals but also on the aspect of their commitment to society and the side work that has been carried out in our organizations for society and for the civil engineering profession.

The presentation of the Jose Medem Civil Engineering Excellence Award can be found [here](#).

17. News update from WCCE

JFS informed the General Assembly regarding the initiatives of WCCE. The presentation can be found [here](#).

18. ZDI presentation about Prof. Joachim Lenz Foundation initiative

Professor Carsten Ahrens takes the floor to deliver the presentation about Prof. Lenz Foundation initiative. The presentation can be found [here](#).

19. Open discussion / any other issues

ECCE Vice President/President Elect Aris Chatzidakis takes the floor to inform the General Assembly regarding the EU initiative "Strategy for the Sustainable Competitiveness of the Construction Sector and its Enterprises". This initiative was launched a few years ago and has various Thematic Groups and also a High Level Tripartite Forum (HLTF) was created. The HLTF is a group of experts formed by members from three areas: administration, professional organizations and industry. It is the leading body that orientates the efforts to phase the crisis in the construction sector. There are five Thematic Groups dealing with various aspects of this effort. ECCE has been participating in the first Thematic Group whose main goal is to stimulate the investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation. The first Thematic Group has a meeting in Brussels on 8th June 2018 and AC believes that the topics that will be discussed there are of high importance for all the ECCE member organizations. ECCE will not be able to participate in this meeting but all the relevant information will be broadly disseminated. AC mentions that the first critical point will be the implementation of the modernization of construction which is a very broad topic and has relevance with the BIM. There will be an open call for proposals on 26th July when any interested organization can submit their proposals. He says that the problem with working in the new environment of BIM is its accessibility by the SMEs. The other part of the subject has to do with not only energy efficiency but with smart buildings which is also the new motto. He adds that in a few months the new framework for research FP9 will be launched and the construction sector is expected to be ready to submit proposals about which research should be applied for projects for the modernization of the construction sector. The last topic AC would like to draw the attention of the participants to would be the infrastructure opportunities and what we need now for the maintenance and the modernization of the infrastructure. He says that this is a big issue in the core of our profession and it is trying to assess and remediate the delay that the economic crisis brought to all the countries in the maintenance and the improvement of the infrastructure. AC suggests that ECCE should appoint two or three persons to deal with these topics and to try to answer to these questions.

WS takes the floor to say a few words about two topics. Firstly, he refers to the forthcoming ECCE ExBo Elections in London and he urges the ECCE Members to start thinking about candidacies for the elections. Then, he mentions that the current ECCE projects and Positions Papers are three: the ECCE booklet on the history of civil engineering, the Position Paper on "The need for integrating Structural / Seismic Upgrade of Existing Buildings, with Energy Efficiency Improvements" and the third and biggest ECCE Project is the European Year of Civil Engineers. Finally, he urges the ECCE members to submit their proposals for Position Papers and other ECCE projects and activities.

Platonas Stylianou suggests that we should think about honoring late Vassilis Economopoulos in our 68th ECCE General Meeting in London as he was a founding member of ECCE and past ECCE President.

WS says that we will invite Vassilis Economopoulos' widow Anna Papadopoulou to London as a way to pay tribute to Vassilis. He adds that we may even submit candidacy for him to the Jose Medem Civil Engineering Excellence Awards if deceased persons are eligible for such candidacy.

Andreas Bradner (Austria) takes the floor. He says that in Austria they have the problem of lack of engineers coming out of Universities. So, in order to interest students in Austria to study civil engineering the Austrian Chamber has launched an award for students. In the beginning the interest was not high but this year they had 30 applicants for this prize. The 2017 will be awarded during the Engineers' Day in the beginning of October.

AC takes the floor to inform the audience about the decisions taken during the meeting of the working group of the new ECCE book that was held the previous day. He says that the timetable was discussed and it was decided that the contents and the format of the book will be finalized until the end of June and then they will take offers for printing it. He also asks WS to have a preface as ECCE President in the book and he says that the book will be ready for our meeting in October.

20. Official close of the 67th ECCE General Meeting

The 67th ECCE General Meeting is officially closed by the ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak.

Minutes prepared by: Maria Karanasiou
ECCE General Secretary