

**MINUTES of the 69<sup>th</sup> GENERAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**

**30<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Podgorica, Montenegro**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Executive Board (National Delegate = ND):**

<b><i>Surname, First name</i></b>		<b><i>ND</i></b>	<b><i>Member Organization</i></b>	<b><i>Country</i></b>
<b>Chatzidakis, Aris</b>	President		Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
<b>Brandner, Andreas</b>	Vice President, President Elect		Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants	Austria
<b>Szymczak, Włodzimierz</b>	Immediate Past President		Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Poland
<b>Natchev, Dimitar</b>	Vice President, Treasurer		Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
<b>Coughlan, Paul</b>	Member	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	U.K.
<b>Endriksone, Helena</b>	Member	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
<b>Saez, Jose Francisco</b>	Member		Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
<b>Stylianou, Platonas</b>	Member		Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
<b>Karanasiou, Maria</b>	General Secretary		-	Greece

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

<b><i>Surname</i></b>	<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Position</i></b>	<b><i>Organization</i></b>	<b><i>Country</i></b>
<b>Thurriedl</b>	Klaus	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants	Austria
<b>Simeonov</b>	Georgi	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
<b>Stefanova</b>	Maria	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
<b>Dražin Lovrec</b>	Nina	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
<b>Paska</b>	Ivan	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
<b>Sokolić</b>	Željko	3 <sup>rd</sup> ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
<b>Theodotou</b>	Andreas	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
<b>Kutruza</b>	Bora	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
<b>Yagcioglu</b>	Gurkan	3 <sup>rd</sup> ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
<b>Ekinci</b>	Abdulah	4 <sup>th</sup> ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
<b>Materna</b>	Alois	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians	Czech Republic
<b>Olop</b>	Jaanus	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
<b>Ruben</b>	Tiia	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
<b>Ahrens</b>	Carsten	1 <sup>st</sup> D AM	Zentralverband Deutscher Ingenieure e.V. - ZDI	Germany
<b>Charlaftis</b>	Paris	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
<b>Stragys</b>	Vincentas	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
<b>Rudžionis</b>	Žymantas	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
<b>Juknevičius</b>	Linas	3 <sup>rd</sup> ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
<b>Muñoz Abela</b>	Jeanette	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Kamra Tal-Periti	Malta
<b>Radulovic</b>	Olga	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Engineers Chamber of Montenegro - Civil Engineers Chamber	Montenegro
<b>Lukovic</b>	Nikola	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Engineers Chamber of Montenegro - Civil Engineers Chamber	Montenegro
<b>Santos</b>	Fernando Manuel de Almeida	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Order of Engineers of Portugal	Portugal
<b>Machado</b>	Luis de Carvalho	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Order of Engineers of Portugal	Portugal
<b>Zamytskiy</b>	Nikolay	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Russian Society of Civil Engineers – Moscow Department	Russia
<b>Tiurin</b>	Oleg	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Russian Society of Civil Engineers – Moscow Department	Russia

<b>Zadnik</b>	Branko	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Slovenian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovenia
<b>Gasca Cuota</b>	Carlos	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
<b>Kaya</b>	Huseyin	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
<b>Gokce</b>	Cemal	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
<b>Shyliuk</b>	Petro	1 <sup>st</sup> ND	Ukrainian Council of civil Engineers	Ukraine
<b>Kiryukhin</b>	Nikolay	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Ukrainian Council of civil Engineers	Ukraine
<b>Moiseinko</b>	Mykola	3 <sup>rd</sup> ND	Ukrainian Council of civil Engineers	Ukraine
<b>Lykhovyd</b>	Oleh	4 <sup>th</sup> ND	Ukrainian Council of civil Engineers	Ukraine
<b>Farmer</b>	Ingrid	2 <sup>nd</sup> ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK
<b>Colon</b>	Emilio	1 <sup>st</sup> Inv. Ass.	WCCE (Past President)	Spain
<b>Tankut</b>	Tugrul	2 <sup>nd</sup> Inv. Ass.	WCCE	Turkey
<b>Monda</b>	Nicola	1 <sup>st</sup> Inv. Ass.	EAMC (Secretary General)	Italy

### **Apologies:**

*Surname, First name / Member Organization*

ECCE Member **Georgian Society of Civil Engineers** (President Iuri Svanidze)  
 Associate Member **Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France**  
 ECCE Member **Hungarian Chamber of Engineers** (Szollossy, Gabor)  
 Associate Member **Romanian Association of Civil Engineers**  
 ECCE Member **Serbian Chamber of Engineers**  
 ECCE Member **Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers** (Vlašič, Martin)

*Country*

Georgia  
 France  
 Hungary  
 Romania  
 Serbia  
 Slovak Republic

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis opens the meeting welcoming all the participants and cordially thanking the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro (IKCG) for hosting our 69<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting. He cordially greets the special guests of our meeting the IKCG President Srđan Laković and the Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro Pavle Radulovic thanking them for the honor to participate in our event. ECCE President mentions that he is satisfied because apart from the old familiar persons he can spot new faces among the participants, which means that we have more members onboard ready to contribute to our common efforts to promote the civil engineering profession. Then, he wishes everyone a fruitful meeting and asks the IKCG President Srđan Laković to take the floor.

IKCG President Srđan Laković takes the floor and addresses a short speech highlighting the readiness of the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro to support and contribute to the ECCE activities. His speech can be found [here](#).

Then, the Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro Pavle Radulovic takes the floor to address a speech. In his speech he highlights the importance of civil engineering and he briefly describes the steps that were taken in Montenegro over the past decades for the improvement of the civil engineering sector. His speech can be found [here](#).

## **2. Introduction of ECCE Members**

At this point ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis 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 69<sup>th</sup> 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**

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis presents the two applications that were submitted from two candidate Associate Members; Intracom Constructions SA Technical and Steel Constructions, D.T. "INTRAKAT" and the Earthquake Planning & Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.). Both candidate members come from Greece. The applications as well as the informative materials that were submitted by the two candidates can be found below:

**INTRAKAT**

**E.P.P.O.**

Then, ECCE President asks the ECCE delegates to vote.

### **Resolution 69.1:**

***The Company Intracom Constructions SA Technical and Steel Constructions, D.T. "INTRAKAT" is unanimously accepted as ECCE Associate Member.***

### **Resolution 69.2:**

***The Earthquake Planning & Protection Organization (E.P.P.O.) is unanimously accepted as ECCE Associate Member.***

## **4. 68<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting minutes approval**

Maria Karanasiou takes the floor and mentions that the minutes from the 68<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting had been disseminated in advance of the General Meeting and comments were requested. The final minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting can be found [here](#). The, the General Assembly is called to vote for the approval of the minutes.

### **Resolution 69.3:**

***The Minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in London are unanimously approved by the General Assembly.***

## **5. ECCE brief activity report October 2018 – May 2019**

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis delivers a presentation on the ECCE brief Activity report from October 2018 to May 2019. The presentation can be found [here](#).

## **6. Presentation from the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro**

At this point AC gives the floor to the National Delegate from Montenegro Nikola Lukovic who delivers a presentation on the "Current Position and Role of Chamber of Engineers" who stressed the importance of strong Engineers Chambers and addressing the regional issues they have been facing in Montenegro. His speech can be found [here](#).

This presentation triggers a discussion regarding deregulation of the profession of civil engineering in Europe. ECEC President Klaus Thurried takes the floor. He says that what we heard in the speech is one picture of the tragedy of what is going on in Europe which in fact is not distinguished between the EU countries and non EU countries. He mentions that in the last 4-5 years they are fighting in Brussels for the interests of Chartered Engineers state licensed engineers because Elżbieta Bieńkowska, the Commissioner for the Internal Market and the people around here want to have business at any price. The Commission says that the rules we have in our Chambers are obstacles for free business and that we have these rules to protect our money and our business. KT says that in fact this is not true. We have our rules to protect quality, sustainability in construction, public interest, safety and so on. He says that the outcome of their efforts in Brussels and participation in working groups and workshops is that now we speak not for deregulation but for better regulation. In Croatia there are some rumors that the state will change the existing law and we have heard the same from Serbia and Montenegro. KT says that the countries that are in EU have support from their authorities but what about the non EU ones? The question is what can we do? He says that in Austria they have a representative of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and he is in the team which negotiates with Serbia and there was a clear position he brought in the paper that the Serbian state should consider that chartered state licensed engineers are in the interest of the public because if the societies in Europe don't need independent and licensed engineers anymore they should tell us. KT says that the last positive point is that up to now they haven't told us so. He mentions that we (ECCE and ECEC) have a lot of work to do together to fight for our rules in respect of the public interest and in respect of what we don't want to happen which is that the Construction Industries rule Europe. He says that Construction companies always build what is good for them and not what is good for the public.

Next, Fernando de Almeida Santos (Portugal) takes the floor. FAS says that in Portugal they have problems too with the deregulation. He highlights the following points:

- Civil Engineering is a profession of public confidence.
- Qualified and certified person is different than mutual recognition.
- Medical doctors are treating lives and they are not touched by such deregulation but we, as engineers, we also treat lives.

Then, Nina Dražin Lovrec, President of the Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers, takes the floor. She says that the same problem exists in Croatia. Croatia has trouble because their government (Ministry of Construction) wants to deregulate part of their certified members. She says that the Croatian Chamber has two registries; one for licensed engineers who are designer and supervisor engineers and the other one is for the site engineers. She says that the Ministry of Construction wants to deregulate in order to upgrade Croatia in doing business and their position in the Chamber should not be mandatory as for the other engineers. In Croatia there are different Chambers for Architects, Civil Engineers, Electric Engineers and Chemical Engineers. She says that all these Chambers have gathered together for these topics and are giving a strong fight with the Ministry and their government through negotiations but they are not listening to their requests. She says that the effort is very big from their side and they hope that this new law will not be put into effect.

Dimitar Natchev, President of the Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria and ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer takes the floor and says that this is a big issue and that ECCE and ECEC must support the Engineering Chambers in Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia with a letter to the governments with a statement.

ECCE President says that a few years now we are dealing with this deregulation effort. We have produced a lot of declarations about it and we have completely and elegantly defended the vision of why regulation is needed for these professions that are based on a deep scientific and technical education and that entail huge responsibility on technical matters. He says that it is recognized in the European law that buildings, environment, etc. are elements of public interest. So, the exercise about professional under-regulated framework is completely based on the existing law of the European Community. The idea that things would be cheaper and more affordable for people if we deregulate completely our services is wrong and arbitrary. We have shown that all these studies about the benefits of deregulation are not valid as the conclusion is already pre-decided even before the study is conducted. AC says that this is a big issue and ECCE has created a Position Paper on the need for appropriate regulation and we have also tackled the topic during the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Engineers Day. He says that we have to continue working on defending our point of view and of course to support our members when needed. AC suggests that Croatia and Montenegro prepare a draft document about what they would like to submit to their governments regarding the topic. Then this document would be revised by the ECCE ExBo and would be sent to the respective governments on behalf of ECCE. AC says that this is a very big issue and maybe we need to dedicate some time exclusively for this topic in a forthcoming meeting. He says that for the time being as a first step he could prepare a letter or some type of declaration stressing the importance of the independent consulting engineers in the construction industry in Europe.

KT says that coming back to the letter to governments, ECEC has written a letter to the Serbian government but no reply has been received. He says that such letters are important and should be written in every case but this is not the solution because the politicians don't realize what the value of an independent engineer representing the interests of the state and the public interests is. Then, KT refers to 1860 when the Austro-Hungarian monarchy decided to establish the independent state licensed engineer for the public. He says that it is still the same law that they are working on in Austria. At that time the state, the monarch realized that society needs some independent body looking on building on construction for the interests of the society and the politicians now have no idea on that. In the study on the topic "Is there influence from deregulation on the quality on services" they didn't find any evidence that there is a negative effect on quality of services so they concluded that there is none. KT says that in the parliamentary breakfast he raised his hand and said that this reminds him of the medieval times of the statement that there is no evidence that God does not exist so it exists. He says that this approach is unacceptable and the study has no evidences, no figures, no interviews and not valid data to support this conclusion. It was a result oriented biased study. KT says that we have to work in two directions. We have to work as European Chambers having confrontations with states that deal with the idea of total deregulation. On the other hand we have to work with the European Commission. KT says that they told Mr. Gambs that every time the same University Institutes wins the study with a reward of 250.000Euros which was spent for nothing. The result of their efforts is that they received a letter from Mr. Gambs asking ECEC what their goals are and their views on certain issues and this is the first time they have been asked. He says that he hopes that this little effort can be increased if we continue working on this topic. He finishes by saying that every member, every single country of ECCE and ECEC must promote this topic to their member of the European Parliament as the EU Parliament is more on our side rather than the European Commission is.

## **7. 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 2018 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 2018 results in a positive balance of approximately €31.000.

**Resolution 69.4:**

***The ECCE Statutory and Management Accounts for 2018 were unanimously approved by the ECCE General Assembly.***

Dimitar Natchev during his report for the ECCE Management Accounts until May 2019 mentions that the members that have not paid their membership fees yet are the following: Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Serbia, U.K. and Ukraine. He mentions also that from the ECCE Associate Members only ZDI has paid its fees for 2019. He concluded that at this stage stands well financially-wise.

ECCE President takes the floor and says that in the ExBo there has been a discussion regarding the way we could exploit the ECCE accumulated funds. He says that there was the question if we do less than what we could afford. He says that we would like to consider ways to invest and better exploit this amount of money providing better services to our members. He makes an open request to the ECCE Members to express their opinion and ideas on this topic.

**8. ECCE Position Paper “The need for Structural / Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings in parallel with Energy Efficiency Improvements”**

At this point Platonas Stylianou takes the floor and delivers his report regarding the progress of the ECCE Position Paper “The need for Structural / Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings in parallel with Energy Efficiency Improvements”. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Tugrul Tankut (WCCE) takes the floor. He says that he realizes the importance of the two issues mentioned in the presentation title: Structural and Seismic safety and energy efficiency but he is having some difficulty to combine them together. Therefore, he would like to ask for three simple innovative techniques combining these two issues together such as for example we have a thermal insulation material that when it is applied to the walls it improves the seismic performance of the structure. He says that if such simple techniques could be given as examples then he would be able to combine these issues together. He concludes that both issues are important and both issues must be treated comprehensively.

AC takes the floor to clarify a few things that may have confused Tugrul Tankut. He says that this document is not a technical one and our aim is not to invent new techniques for seismic performance improvement of the buildings as there are special research centers for this reason. The aim of this document is to try to bring awareness to the big problem we are facing now which is the fact that there is a big stock of buildings which are not only energy deficient but they are also deficient from the structural safety point of view. Europe cannot ignore this problem and in the coming years we will have to face it. What we are trying to say with this Position Paper is that it is not wise for Europe to invest money to ameliorate the envelop of a building, and being indifferent about what is happening to its bones. AC says that in order for this to be implemented as a policy it will take time and it will be up to each country to respect some of these points. He says that there is one more thing that we have to formulate and if it is on a European level it would be great. When you want to promote energy efficiency you have to make a classification of energy efficiency of buildings. He says that this classification regarding energy efficiency is common across Europe as it has been introduced by a European Directive. If we want to promote the structural safety of buildings we need in turn to classify them according to their structural vulnerability otherwise it is difficult to prioritize which buildings need to be structurally upgraded more urgently. He says that if we want to talk about sustainability safety must come first before energy consumption or at least in parallel. It is a pity that the insulation materials lobby and the industry has put the emphasis on the energy efficiency point but there is also some economic aspect of the structural upgrade of buildings because if we make buildings safer we save money. This is the Italian method which is trying to combine the two aspects, the vulnerability with the money you will earn if you improve the safety of your building in a seismic event. He says that it is a huge subject but we can start with trying to convince the policy makers that no major renovation of a public building should be executed unless the building is firstly structurally upgraded if needed.

Platonas Stylianou takes the floor. He says that maybe Tugrul Tankut was not present in the previous ECCE General Meeting where the Position Paper was presented and that is why he didn't understand very well the content and the purpose of it. He says that this Position Paper is not a technical document but its purpose is:

- to raise awareness about the topic
- to find EU funds and grants for the structural/ seismic assessment of buildings

- Record and give data for the various methods that could be implemented either holistically or simultaneously or individually (This would come separately as a last step)

Andreas Theodotou (President of the Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers) who is a member of the working team for the Position Paper takes the floor. He says that a few days ago their Association had to send their comments about the new law for energy efficiency to the Ministry of Energy, Commerce and Industry that is responsible for the new law. In their comments they proposed that the buildings that were constructed before the implementation of the first Anti-seismic Code in Cyprus should be retrofitted and structurally upgraded together with the energy efficiency improvements. He says that they have started discussions about this topic following the advice of the Commissioner Stylianides whom he had met (meeting with ECCE President, Platonas Stylianou and Andreas Theodotou in the end of 2018) a few months ago that we need to act locally in our national governments too.

Huseyin Kaya (Turkey) takes the floor. He says that this subject is very important. He says that structural upgrade works would cost too much and the owners of the building might not be able to afford such upgrade. Therefore, he thinks that it is very important to mention in the Position Paper that subsidies should be offered to people in order to enable them to perform such upgrades. He asks whether the cost ratio for such projects will be studied in the Position Paper.

AC says that the proper renovation of a building (structural and energy upgrade) is very expensive indeed and grants are needed. He mentions the case of Italy as an example. He says that in Italy if you seismically upgrade your house by some rules they have introduced by Presidential Decree you get a tax discount until you receive back in this form all the money you have invested in this project. AC says that the energy efficiency upgrade is funded by the EU because it is a European Policy but the structural upgrade is not a European Policy and therefore the Italian government found this way to support the structural upgrade of buildings giving national money. In the Position Paper we will try to support the idea that European money should be as well assigned to the structural upgrade of buildings.

Emilio Colon (WCCE Past President) takes the floor. Emilio Colon says that in the US there is a process that the Building Code is reviewed every three years and it means that if you are going to do rehabilitation of a building you have to bring it up to the existing Code. He says that there are two more incentives for people to do the retrofitting. One is insurance because when you retrofit your building the insurance is reduced so there is an incentive there. The other factor is when you have a national disaster and you have the systems recovering from the national disaster those clusters that are not within the building code have to be brought up to Building Code standards if you want to have any funding to help you with that disaster.

## 9. Construction Industry news

ECCE President AC takes the floor and delivers a presentation regarding the recent news in Construction sector describing ECCE's involvement in the Thematic Group 1 of the High Level Tripartite Forum and the European Construction Forum. His presentation can be found [here](#).

Then, ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner takes the floor to talk about his experience from his participation in the meeting of the Thematic Group 1 "Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation" in the December 2018. He says that one of the main topics they dealt with during the meeting was infrastructure maintenance. He says that the discussion was based on the Discussion paper "State of Infrastructure maintenance" and the Summary note – Horizon 2020 & FP7-funded infrastructure maintenance projects. AB says that he presented ECCE's view which is briefly given below.

In the last few years in many European countries it was realized, that the technical condition of bridges and other infrastructure was poor or even alarmingly bad, which led to sudden closures and renewal actions.

Road and rail infrastructure are designed for a minimum 50 up to 100 years lifetime, buildings are at least designed for a 50 years lifetime, but – and this fact is neglected in many cases – only in case of holistic regular maintenance.

This regular maintenance is carried out only in parts and not in all countries of the EU. Due to dramatic failures of infrastructure – bridge collapses – the need of appropriate maintenance pops up and leads to studies and action.

As Civil Engineers we must express our concern that this did not happen earlier in a wide scale. In several EU countries infrastructure maintenance is already implemented – for road based on a technical code called RVS. There all safety relevant parts of infrastructure are covered as there are:

- Road
- Bridges
- Retaining structures

- Ground anchors
- Avalanche protecting and rockfall protecting devices – barriers

Rail infrastructure maintenance was already earlier an item, which was discussed and regularly carried out mostly by infrastructure operators in a similar way. Examples in several countries already show the positive effect of regular maintenance on lifetime of infrastructure and cost. Only a holistic approach to service and maintenance will lead to cost savings and sensible use of financial resources.

Thoughts and suggestions:

- To secure flourishing economy in EU a safe and working infrastructure is the necessary base.
- ECCE is convinced that regular maintenance is an absolute must for all infrastructures – Road, Rail, Buildings – and must be carried out on a regular base following uniform rules and regulations considering the importance of the infrastructure.
- The necessary checks must use state of the art methods and tools and the result must be provided in a digital form.
- We think that the results of Research projects funded by FP7 or H2020 concerning methods and devices of structural monitoring and inspection of infrastructure, should lead to common European best practices, available to all.
- Based on the checking results, the necessity, extent and timing of maintenance must be determined by independent qualified persons, bodies, organizations in reconciliation with the needs of the operator taking into account the safety of the operators and users.
- Adequate financing and funding of checks and maintenance must be provided by the political sector.
- To improve the results innovations should be funded by EU.

Andreas Brandner informs the General Assembly that he participated also in the 2<sup>nd</sup> stakeholder workshop – “Development of possible EU actions to support the internationalization of SMEs from the European Construction Sector in Third markets” that was held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, in Brussels. He says that it was interesting to realize that there is quite a lot of money available by the European Community to fund this but the problem is that nobody knows about it. He says that most of the European Engineering Companies are small or medium and it is very important that they get this kind of information. Also, to give some impulses to the economy you need to involve engineers in the primary stage of the project because then you can implement European standards in those Third markets which in turn helps the European companies to work there.

Then, Paul Coughlan (ExBo Member and U.K. National Delegate) takes the floor. He reflects on one of the most important topics of engineering which is sustainability and delivers a presentation on the “ICE Sustainability Route Map” which is the Global Engineering Congress Legacy. He stresses that we have a planetary crisis in front of us with the acceleration of climate change, the ongoing depletion of planetary resources and the loss of biodiversity. He highlights that we, as engineers, should play a leading role in this huge effort towards sustainability. What engineers could do is change the way we work and the way we address our profession. We need to bring sustainability right to the core of what we do. We have to tackle the system problems in food transport and energy so we reduce the use of resources. He says that things are going to get worse before they get better and this is where the theme resilience comes in and we, as engineers, need to help society deal with the challenges we are going to have around issues like sea level rise, more severe climate events, etc. So, he concludes that engineers should work on two main areas which are:

- Contributing to the mitigation of the big risks we have in the environment
- Making our existing society more resilient.

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

## **10. Presentation from the Ukrainian Council of Civil Engineers**

Then, the new ECCE member Ukrainian Council of Civil Engineers (UCCE) that joined ECCE in October 2018 was given the floor. First, UCCE President Petro Shyliuk takes the floor and addresses a short speech presenting the delegation from Ukraine and apologizing about the fact that UCCE delegation was not able to attend the 68<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting in London when the voting for UCCE’s admission in ECCE was held. Then, he gives the floor to the UCCE Vice President Nikolay Kiryukhin who delivers a presentation regarding Ukraine, UCCE and their aspirations for their membership in ECCE. The presentation can be found [here](#).

## 11. Guidelines for the organization of the ECCE General Meetings

ECCE General Secretary Maria Karanasiou takes the floor to present the Guidelines for the organization of the ECCE General Meetings. She says that the need for written guidelines on the organization of the ECCE General Meetings was identified a few years ago and particularly when the recession period had kicked in. As a result of the financial crisis the ECCE members started to have more financial issues with much smaller budgets available for hosting the ECCE General Meetings. So, the first draft of these guidelines was prepared a few years ago when Wlodzimierz Szymczak was ECCE President aiming to describe the basic requirements for the organization of such meetings and to show that nothing luxurious is anticipated but on the contrary a modest environment for our meetings it is expected. Coming to the document itself, it refers to and describes the following topics:

- Dates for spring and autumn meetings
- Proposal about combined Conference/ Workshop/ Seminar
- Average attendance
- Venue requirements
- Accommodation requirements
- Meals and Gala Dinner
- Social programme and tours
- Registration fees
- Draft generic Agenda

It is clarified that these guidelines are not binding and they are made to facilitate the prospective hosts of the meetings to estimate the budget required for such events and to help them with the planning. All ECCE Members are welcome to submit their proposals to the ECCE ExBo which will treat them in a case by case basis.

The Guidelines for the organization of ECCE General Meetings can be found [here](#).

## 12. ECCE – ASCE Agreement of Cooperation renewal

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis informs the ECCE members that ECCE received a proposal from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) to renew their Agreement Cooperation that was initially signed a few years ago. He says that the ECCE ExBo has deliberated on the topic and has examined the AoC document and took a positive decision on the topic. AC says that the fields of potential cooperation between the two organizations as described in the document that will be signed are the following:

- Exchange of information regarding the engineering profession in general.
- Encouragement of joint events of all kinds.
- Encouragement of the exchange of students, lecturers, and guests.
- Exchange of information regarding scientific and technical events that are of mutual interest.
- Provide mutual professional advice, especially in all areas of international, technical and scientific matters to the extent provided by each organization to its own members.

## 13. Discussion on potential changes in the ECCE Articles of Association

ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev (Bulgaria) says that the Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria (UCEB) has submitted a proposal for changes and additions in the ECCE Articles of Association aiming to improve the operation of ECCE. The proposals are below:

### **Article 2 Members**

#### 2.2 Admission to ECCE

Applications, which must be in accordance with 2.1, to ECCE shall be approved by two-thirds majority of ECCE. ~~Acceptance entitles a member to voting rights at the General Meetings of ECCE and to the services of ECCE.~~

(New) A membership to ECCE will only become effective after the payment of the first membership fee. An effective membership entitles a member to voting rights at the General Meetings of ECCE and to the services of ECCE.

Resignation / Termination of membership by a member from ECCE must be notified to the President or the General Secretary six (6) months in advance of proposed discontinuation.

(New) 2.7 ECCE members may make/submit proposals for changes and additions to the Articles of Association of ECCE through ECCE Executive Board

(New) 2.7.1 The proposals should be submitted to the ExBo not later than 2 months before General Assembly Meeting.

(New) 2.7.2 ExBo submit the proposals to General Assembly with an opinion statement on the lawfulness of the proposals

(New) 2.7.3 The proposals should be sent to the Members at the latest one month before the General Assembly Meeting.

## **Article 6** **The Executive Board**

6.5 Elected Delegates shall hold office for a period of three (3) years.

(New) 6.5.1 The mandate of a member of Executive Board shall be terminated before expiry in case of retirement or resignation;

(New) 6.5.2 General Assembly may by a two-thirds majority terminate the mandate of a member of the Executive Board/President prior to the expiry of the Executive Board's term of office:

1. in case of a failure to fulfill his/her obligations for more than 6 months;
2. if he/she does not participate without good reason in more than two consecutive meetings of the Executive Board;
3. if he/she does not participate without the consent of the Board from all Board Meetings held during a period of six Months;
4. upon termination of membership of the member of ECCE, whose representative is the person;

(New) 6.5.3 The post of the retired or removed Executive Board member / President shall be filled, by another delegate, elected by voting in the first forthcoming General Assembly, without complying with the procedure for nomination – nomination shall be accepted during the General Assembly.

6.6 The Executive Board (except the Secretary General) shall not have more than one member from the same country.

~~6.7 The post of a retired Executive Board member shall be filled, till the end of the Executive Board mandate, by the next person voted by the General Assembly. If a tie exists an intermediate voting shall take place.~~

AC thanks DN for his proposals. He says that the ExBo is not ready yet to present a final proposal for voting but we thought that the discussion could be opened and the current proposals be presented. AC says that we can discuss this topic now but a final proposal will be presented in the next ECCE General Assembly in Lisbon for voting.

Alois Materna (Czech Republic) says that in Article 6.5.1 the wording "retirement" should be changed and substituted with "resignation" or "death". He says that he doesn't understand what retirement means in this point.

Nikola Lukovic (Montenegro) says that Article 6.5.2 is not very clear and that it would be good if it could be rephrased and more precisely written.

PS says that he understands the need to revise the Articles of Association and thanks DN for opening the topic. He says that this is a good starting point and that a more complete proposal with a holistic approach will be elaborated and presented for our next meeting.

This topic will be included in the Agenda of the 70<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting when the final proposal will be presented and voted.

#### **14. ECCE – ECEC Agreement of Cooperation**

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis says that ECCE and the European Council of Engineering Chambers (ECEC) have a long and good cooperation and the signing of an Agreement of Cooperation between the two organizations is considered. He mentions that ECCE has sent a letter of intent to ECEC and that the matter is under discussion now.

ECEC President Klaus Thurriedl says that ECEC is very positive for such initiative and they appreciate and want to work together with ECCE. He says that maybe we should add something regarding our representation in Brussels but in general they are very positive.

AC asks ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner and ECEC President Klaus Thurriedl to start preparing a draft document which will then be revised by the ECCE and ECEC ExBo to finalize it and then proceed with signing the AoC.

#### **15. ECCE Book “Notes on the history of civil engineering”**

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis says that there are two issues to be discussed; the possible reprinting of the book “Notes on the history of civil engineering” and the creation of a series of mini-books under the general title “Notes on the history of civil engineering” where the civil engineering history of our members will be showcased.

AC says that regarding the reprinting of the book Gorazd Humar (Slovenia) who is also the editor-in-chief and he is in charge of the cooperation with the printing house informed us that we would require a minimum amount of 1.000 copies. So, far we have received 575 order requests. AC encourages the ECCE members to think about purchasing more copies of this book as the price is really low. At this point AC read out the letter that was sent by Gorazd Humar because he was not able to attend this meeting. The letter is the following:

*"Dear ECCE delegates, dear all,  
An unexpected event prevented me from coming to Podgorica in the very last moment and I regret it. Especially because Podgorica is a city where as project manager I was in charge of construction of two big bridges, one of these two bridges The Millennium cable stay bridge was presented on ECCE documents for the 69<sup>th</sup> ECCE GAM. Nevertheless, I wish you all a good work hoping also that you will support the reprint of the last ECCE book Notes on the history of civil engineering and that you will support the preparation of the next book project based on national contributions. All ECCE books we made are our remarkable identity cards.  
Hope to meet you at the 70<sup>th</sup> ECCE GAM in Lisbon this year.  
Best regards,  
Gorazd Humar"*

AC then talks about the ambition to produce a series of books on the history of civil engineering that will include contributions from the ECCE members. He says that civil engineering history is very rich and there is already material gathered. The second volume would include notes on the national history of civil engineering of some of the ECCE members. He says that to start with we have already a short contribution from Greece and we have also a contribution from Malta. Moreover, we expect contributions from Russia, Austria, Spain and France. He says that there isn't a concrete timetable for this project but he would like to have a first idea of the countries that will contribute to the next volume by our next meeting in Lisbon, in September.

#### **16. 2018 EYCE closing remarks**

The ECCE Immediate Past President Włodzimierz Szymczak takes the floor to deliver a presentation with the closing remarks of the ECCE initiative 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers. The presentation can be found [here](#).

#### **17. 70<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting presentation**

Fernando de Almeida Santos (Portugal) takes the floor to inform the General Assembly about the forthcoming 70<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting that will be held in Lisbon hosted by the Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal (OEP) in

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parallel with the Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit. He says that this year the OEP celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and also the OEP Bastonario (President) Carlos Mineiro Aires is also the President of the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE) so they decided to organize a big Civil Engineering Summit (CES2019) with engineers from around the world that would come to Lisbon to share knowledge, challenges and projects. Simultaneously with the CES2019, Lisbon will also host the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE), the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE), the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) and the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC) General Assemblies. He says that the CES2019 will be held 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September. The ECCE ExBo meeting will be on 24<sup>th</sup> September and the ECCE General Meeting and Gala Dinner will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Then, Fernando de Almeida Santos presents a first draft of the program of the CES2019 which will be announced formally soon.

Then, Luis Machado President of the Civil Engineering department of OEP takes the floor to greet ECCE members and to cordially welcome them to Lisbon and the Lisbon CES2019.

## **18. ECCE partners news (WCCE, EAMC, ECEC)**

At this point the partners of ECCE are given the floor to briefly present their current activities.

### **World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)**

WCCE Past President Emilio Colon takes the floor and the delivers a presentation which can be found [here](#).

### **Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC)**

EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda takes the floor and the delivers a presentation which can be found [here](#).

### **European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC)**

ECEC President Klaus Thurriedl takes the floor and the delivers a presentation which can be found [here](#).

## **19. Open discussion/ brainstorming session**

ECCE President informs the ECCE members that this will be an open discussion. The floor will be open to anyone who would like to share a new idea, proposals for new activities, or any other topic to be discussed.

Paul Coughlan takes the floor. He says that he was inspired by Wlodzimerz Szymczak's presentation earlier on the 2018EYCE which was a very good initiative that brought us together as a community, promoted the profession of civil engineering and our profile. He says that his idea relates to the presentation he delivered earlier regarding sustainable development which he believes is the biggest challenge for the years to come. The idea would be to designate 2020 as the Year of Sustainable Development and we, as a community of civil engineers, will organize workshops, conferences, meetings, etc. regarding this topic.

Wlodzimerz Szymczak takes the floor. He says that we need to discuss more about the challenges we are facing nowadays as inhabitants of planet earth. He says that we have 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from which 5 or even 7 directly affect civil engineers. Civil engineers as a group of professionals who are well prepared for this kind of problems have to identify them and address them. He says that he is afraid that even among the society of civil engineers the awareness about these problems is not sufficient. He suggests doing a short exercise as an example. He asks people to imagine that they are standing in a glacier during the ice age thousand years ago and travelling to nowadays 20.000 years later if we take a look around us we are standing in totally different surroundings. He highlights that the difference in the average temperature on earth between the ice age and nowadays is only 4°C which shows what an impact temperature increase can have. So, he sets the question what would be the impact on the planet if the average temperature rises for another 4°C. He says that we are responsible for this situation and we have to be involved in solving these problems much more than we are now and that we have to make it a priority in our agenda.

Jose Francisco Saez Rubio (ExBo Member and National Delegate for Spain) takes the floor. He says that ECCE has not any document expressing its specific commitment to the SDGs whereas WFEO, WCCE and other organizations have it. He says that embracing the SDGs could be an ECCE potential initiative. In addition to this, he says that he has one concern which is that so far the contributions to this brainstorming session have been made by ExBo

members only but we need all the ECCE members to be active and participating in the ECCE activities. JFS encourages all ECCE members to express their ideas and proposals.

ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner takes the floor. He says that one of the things that concern him over the last years is the kind of education of young engineers. He says that many young engineers coming out of Universities are very good in theory but from the practical point of view they are incompetent. They can make the calculations but they don't really understand the realistic result. He thinks that in ECCE we should try to express to the Universities what is expected from young engineers when they graduate so that they are more qualified to start practicing the profession.

Jeanette Muñoz Abela (Malta) takes the floor. She confirms that Malta will host the 71<sup>st</sup> ECCE General Meeting in spring 2020. She mentions that Kamra-Tal-Periti will be celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary from July 2019 to July 2020 and the 71<sup>st</sup> ECCE General Meeting will be part of this celebration. She says that more information will be delivered to the ECCE members in the near future.

## **20. Official close of the 69<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting**

The 69<sup>th</sup> ECCE General Meeting is officially closed by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis.

Minutes prepared by: Maria Karanasiou  
ECCE General Secretary