

MINUTES of the 73rd GENERAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

22nd – 23rd October 2021, online via Zoom

PARTICIPANTS:

Executive Board (National Delegate = ND):

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

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

<i>Surname</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>
Dražin Lovrec	Nina	1 st ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
Theodotou	Andreas	2 nd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Kutruza	Bora	3 rd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Ekinci	Abdullah	4 th ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Materna	Alois	1 st ND	Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians	Czech Republic
Piirsalu	Andres	1 st ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Ruben	Tiia	2 nd ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Svanidze	Iuri	1 st ND	Georgian Society of Civil Engineers	Georgia
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
Peli	Linda	1 st D AM	Earthquake Planning & Protection Organization	Greece
Szollossy	Gabor	1 st ND	Hungarian Chamber of Engineers	Hungary
Rudžionis	Žymantas	1 st ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Muñoz Abela	Jeanette	1 st ND	Kamra Tal-Periti	Malta
Radulovic	Olga	1 st ND	Engineers Chamber of Montenegro	Montenegro
Lukovic	Nikola	2 nd ND	Engineers Chamber of Montenegro	Montenegro
De Almeida Santos	Fernando	1 st ND	Order of Engineers of Portugal	Portugal
Vaz Costa	Rosa Maria	2 nd ND	Order of Engineers of Portugal	Portugal
Pratas	Gonçalo	Ind. Member	Ass. Order of Engineers of Portugal	Portugal
Tiurin	Oleg	1 st ND	Russian Society of Civil Engineers – Moscow Department	Russia
Moravcik	Lubos	1 st ND	Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovakia
Prebil	Dejan	1 st ND	Slovenian Chamber of Engineers	Slovenia
Zadnik	Branco	Ind. Member	Ass. Slovenian Chamber of Engineers	Slovenia
Kaya	Huseyin	1 st ND	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Kiryukhin	Nikolay	1 st ND	Ukrainian Council of civil Engineers	Ukraine
Slobodyan	Yaroslav	Ind. Member	Ass. Ukrainian Council of civil Engineers	Ukraine

Momber	Katie	2 nd ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	U.K.
Coleman	Murt	Observer	Engineers Ireland	Ireland
Bokolas	Konstantinos	Observer	Engineers Ireland	Ireland
Monda	Nicola	Inv. Ass.	EAMC (Secretary General)	Italy
Cvetkovska	Meri	Inv. Ass.	Chamber of certified architects and certified engineers of R. North Macedonia	North Macedonia

Apologies:

Surname, First name / Member Organization

ECCE Member **Serbian Chamber of Engineers**

ECCE Member **Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos**

Country

Serbia

Spain

Friday 22nd October 2021

1. Opening of the Meeting

ECCE General Secretary Maria Karanasiou (MK) welcomes all the participants to the 73rd ECCE General Meeting. She says that it's good to see everyone even in an online setting and that it is a pity that we were not able to meet in person in Sofia as it was originally planned. She requests the participants to keep their microphones on mute when they don't need to speak in order to minimize any background noises and to use the raise hand feature when they would like to take the floor. Then, she gives the floor to the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis to officially open the 73rd ECCE General Meeting.

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis (AC) takes the floor and welcomes everyone to the 73rd ECCE General Meeting. He says that he regrets that we have to once more meet online and not in person but he hopes that the circumstances will change in the next year. He says that the ECCE Executive Board elections will be held as part of the 73rd ECCE General Meeting on Saturday 23rd October 2021 when the ECCE Presidency will be also handed over to Andreas Brandner who will be the new ECCE President until 2024.

2. Introduction of ECCE Members

At this point ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis gives the floor to the representatives of the ECCE Members to present themselves and the delegation of their organization to the 73rd ECCE General Meeting. Participants are listed in the first two pages of the document.

The 1st National Delegate of the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro announces that she was recently elected to the post of the President of the Civil Engineering Department of the Chamber and that her colleague Nikola Lukovic (2nd National Delegate) was elected President of the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro.

Katie Momber (2nd National Delegate of the Institution of Civil Engineers, U.K.) says that Paul Coughlan who is the 1st ND for the U.K. will not be able to attend today's meeting but will attend tomorrow. She says that she is entitled to vote when necessary during today's session.

At this point, ECCE President explains that a few days ago we received a communication from the Chamber of Certified Architects and Certified Engineers of Republic of North Macedonia that wish to join ECCE as members. He explains that the formal procedure of admitting a new ECCE member needs to be followed according to the ECCE Articles of Association, so this decision will remain on hold until our next ECCE General Meeting when the Chamber's official application will have been submitted and disseminated in advance to our members. However, the President invites Ms. Meri Cvetkovska, Head of the Department of Civil Engineers of the Chamber of Certified Architects and Certified Engineers of Republic of North Macedonia to deliver a brief presentation about the Chamber as an introduction to the topic.

Ms. Meri Cvetkovska takes the floor. She informs the participants that the President of the Chamber signed the official application form this morning and she understands that the application came in on a very short notice but she hopes that in the next ECCE General Meeting they will have the chance to officially join ECCE as members. She says that the Chamber of Certified Architects and Certified Engineers of Republic of North Macedonia was established 13 years ago and it is under the law of construction and they are responsible for issuing certificates for the engineers who are involved in the process of construction of structures. The Chamber is the only responsible institution in North Macedonia for issuing such certificates. She says that the Chamber is an independent non-profit professional organization that collects all the engineers in the Republic of North Macedonia and it is the only authorized institution that issues certificates to engineers and architects in terms of their professional competency. It was established 13 years ago as an organization that will represent, harmonize and protect the professional interests of all certified architects and certified engineers. There are 3500 active engineers although in total there are more than 8000 engineers with the majority of them being civil engineers. The Chamber represents civil engineers, architects, electrical engineers, mechanical engineers, urban planners, geotechnical engineers, environmental engineers, occupational safety and fire protection engineers, technologists and metallurgists, and energy efficiency engineers. She mentions that some of the engineers have multiple certificates in different sectors. In terms of the way the Chamber is organized she says that they have a General Assembly of 75 engineers who have the right to vote, a managing board, the Chamber President and Secretary General. The Chamber is a member of the European Council of Engineering Chambers (ECEC), the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) and the Engineering Initiative for Regional Cooperation (IIRS) and they also want to become

members of ECCE. She clarifies that only the Civil Engineering Department of the Chamber will be the Department to join ECCE. She says that main goal of the Chamber is not only to issue certificates but to focus on the lifelong learning and the continued professional development of their members; they organize numerous engineering courses, seminars, etc. She says that currently North Macedonia gets to face the Eurocodes for the first time and they really need assistance from colleagues who are familiar with the Eurocodes. She adds that this is one of the reasons they would like to join ECCE, to help them find experts who will support them in the process of getting involved with the Eurocodes and prepare engineers to use the Eurocodes for the structural design. Ms. Cvetkovska closes her speech wishing that in the next ECCE General Meeting the Chamber of North Macedonia will join ECCE as member.

ECCE Presidents Ms. Cvetkovska for her presentation and for the intention of the Chamber of North Macedonia to join ECCE. He says that their application will be discussed within the ECCE ExBo and then will be presented officially in the next ECCE General Meeting when it will be put to voting by the ECCE members.

ECCE President welcomes the representatives from Engineers Ireland Murt Coleman and Dinos Bokolas who participate as observers in the 73rd ECCE General Meeting.

Murt Coleman takes the floor and thanks ECCE President for giving Engineers Ireland the opportunity to participate in the ECCE General Meeting on observer status. He says that he and Dinos Bokolas are looking forward to observing a fruitful meeting and to reporting back to Engineers Ireland on a positive note. He says that in Ireland they are very anxious to be a part of the civil engineering family in Europe so that's why they are re-engaging with ECCE. He wishes ECCE President very well on his retirement from Presidency and the New President and new ExBo to be elected the best of luck. He says that Engineers Ireland has 25 members, 40% of them are involved in the civil division and they are looking forward to be part of the ECCE family again.

ECCE President welcomes Mr. Nicola Monda EAMC Secretary General. Nicola Monda takes the floor and greets everyone. He thanks ECCE for the invitation and says that it is always a pleasure to attend the meetings of ECCE. He says that he is the Secretary General of the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC) and that many of the ECCE members are also members to EAMC. He says that in EAMC they are starting updating the research on reformation and legislation in the Mediterranean countries, so many of the ECCE members will be contacted by the National Council of Engineers of Italy (CNI) to get the necessary information in order to update the research. He says that he hopes that we will be able to meet soon in person and wishes everyone a good work and a successful meeting.

3. Quorum verification and 72nd ECCE General Meeting minutes approval

MK presents the list of the ECCE National members participating in the meeting and the respective number of votes that each one holds as well as their voting right status. The countries that have not fulfilled their financial obligation to ECCE up to the current year are not entitled to voting.

	Country	1 st National Delegate	Number of votes on reserved matters	Voting right
1	Austria	Andreas Brandner	5	Yes
2	Bulgaria	Dimitar Natchev	2	Yes
3	Croatia	Nina Dražin Lovrec	2	Yes
4	Cyprus	Platonas Stylianou	2	Yes
5	Czech Republic	Alois Materna	6	Yes
6	Estonia	Andres Piirsalu	1	Yes
7	Georgia	Iuri Svanidze	1	Yes
8	Greece	Paris Charlaftis	5	Yes
9	Hungary	Gábor Szöllőssy	5	Yes

10	Latvia	Helena Endriksone	1	Yes
11	Lithuania	Žymantas Rudžionis	1	Yes
12	Malta	Jeanette Muñoz Abela	2	Yes
13	Montenegro	Olga Radulovic	1	Yes
14	Poland	Włodzimierz Szymczak	10	Yes
15	Portugal	Fernando de Almeida Santos	6	Yes
16	Russia	Oleg Tyurin	8	Yes
17	Serbia	-	1	Yes
18	Slovak Republic	Lubos Moravcik	3	Yes
19	Slovenia	Dejan Prebil	2	Yes
20	Spain	-	16	No
21	Turkey	Hüseyin Kaya	5	Yes
22	Ukraine	Nikolay Kiryukhin	2	Yes
23	U.K.	Paul Coughlan	16	Yes
	Total		103	87

ECCE President says that the quorum is verified given that the voting members accumulate more than 50% of the votes on reserved matters.

Then, ECCE President says that the minutes from the 72nd ECCE General Meeting have been disseminated in advance of the General Meetings. The minutes of the 72nd ECCE General Meeting can be found [here](#). The General Assembly is called to vote for the approval of the minutes.

Resolution 73.1:

The Minutes of the 72nd ECCE General Meeting that was held virtually are unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

4. ECCE Activity Report since June 2021

ECCE President says that it has been a short time since our last ECCE General Meeting in June 2021 and therefore our activities were not that many during this period. However, ECCE has been functioning and the ExBo has been regularly meeting online each month and working on various topics which will be presented in the activity report. The presentation on the Activity Report since June 2021 can be found [here](#).

ECCE President announces that unfortunately the Colegio de Ingenieros de Canales, Caminos y Puertos (Spain) decided to resign from ECCE. ECCE President says that a few months ago CICCIP demanded from the ECCE ExBo to dismiss Jose Francisco Saez Rubio as he was no longer working from CICCIP. Additionally, CICCIP demanded that we review the way we calculate the membership fees as they find it unreasonable. ECCE President tried to explain to CICCIP that ECCE has its own rules and procedures and all our actions must be in accordance to our Articles of Association. He says that we have exchanged a number of letters but unfortunately we haven't managed to come to an agreement. He says that he is very sorry that CICCIP is leaving ECCE but he hopes that in the future we will have the chance to get Spain back to ECCE. The correspondence between CICCIP and ECCE is linked in the Activity Report presentation.

5. ECCE Strategic Plan survey results

ECCE ExBo Member Platonas Stylianou who is also the coordinator of the working group for the ECCE Strategic Plan takes the floor in order to present the results of the survey that was carried out among ECCE members in the context of the ECCE Strategic Plan.

The presentation of the ECCE Strategic Plan survey results can be found [here](#).

The main conclusions that were drawn from this survey are the following:

- Work with task group and working committees/ together with P.P. ECCE has delivered fine so far, but...
- Better information flow requested.
- Creation of a common information/ideas/ innovation platform is needed.
- There is room to improve ECCE's services and its availability.
- Affordable fees for the time being, but... too much for big Countries.
- New financial Rules/Policy is needed.
- Need for a change, ECCE is ready for changes.
- A common European Code of Ethics is needed.

Open discussion about the ECCE Strategic Plan

Huseyin Kaya (representative from Turkey) takes the floor. He thanks Platonas Stylianou and the working group members for preparing the survey on the ECCE Strategic Plan. He says that we have already talked about the Strategic Plan in our previous meeting. However, he wants to mention again that ECCE should advise and influence individual governments and professional bodies, formulate standards and ensure the mutual compatibility of the different regulations.

ECCE should demand legislation to prevent civil engineers from using the powers that will endanger the safety of structures and call on National Governments to implement Professional Engineering in the construction industry. He says that the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers thinks that this issue is of utmost importance.

Also, ECCE should ask the individual problems of its National members and inform their members by forming opinions on engineering issues. By this way, members can benefit from these views in their requests for legislative amendments from their Governments.

Beside this, ECCE can write advisory opinions to the relevant Ministries of countries that do not comply with European standards and codes of conduct.

He also mentions that the relation with European Parliament is important. The lobbying activities in Brussels and the decisions taken within the ECCE must be approved or supported by the European Parliament.

So, a key note or expected benefit that they want is that ECCE should take an active role in the implementation of European standards and laws in the field of civil engineering in the Member States (European & Non-European Countries).

Another issue that Huseyin Kaya puts on the table is the ECCE CARD - (European Civil Engineer) - Individual Member. He says that the profession of the Civil Engineering is mostly performed where the construction is being made, in Europe or in any part of the world. Today, within the European Union, construction companies have activities in many countries, so civil engineers have to move to foreign countries and to work all over Europe.

To allow this professional movement European Union published a Directive on Professional Mobility, to facilitate the recognition of Civil Engineers across Europe. ECCE as representative of those organizations, and to promote quality in professional recognition, is opening its membership to individual members, allowing for their image recognition as European Civil Engineers. He says that ECCE card identifies you, through your national organization, as a Professional of Civil Engineering in your country and in ECCE. It is expected that in the future the card will allow automatic civil engineering identification across Europe, according to the European Union Mobility Directive, when national organizations implement their database of Civil Engineers. So, he thinks that ECCE must follow this process also. He says that there is another card which is; EUR-ING Certificate, which is a service provided by FEANI. It gives the certificate holder the right to be named as a "European Engineer" within the member countries.

The purposes of issuing this certificate can be listed as follows:

- To facilitate the mobility of engineers within and outside of FEANI and to establish a framework for mutual recognition of qualifications for those wishing to do engineering outside their home country;
- Provide adequate information on the formation of an engineer for the future employer;
- Supporting engineers' continuous improvement by preparing, monitoring and reviewing standards;
- To provide a source of information on formation systems that differs significantly between member states.

He says that in his point of view, in order to facilitate the mobility of engineers, it is necessary to facilitate or simplify the European (Schengen) visa for Eur-Ing Certificate holders. For this reason, it is very important that ECCE, by collaborating with FEANI, shall take the initiative and to prevent them from submitting any other documents to the Embassies for the mobility of engineers.

This initiative of ECCE will provide great convenience especially to the engineers of non-European countries and will fulfill FEANI's primary goal. He adds that in Turkey, UCTEA started to receive applications for FEANI's card (with a fee of 220 Euro) but participation is very low. If that card "facilitates the right of free movement in Europe and in other member Countries", the applications will increase rapidly. He says that there are only about 150,000 Civil Engineers in Turkey and approximately 100,000 civil engineers who can apply and get EUR-ING Certificate. Making these applications through ECCE will make ECCE a more effective and active institution.

Finally, he says that another important issue is the continuation of initiatives to increase the number of member states. Particularly, making countries such as France, Germany and Italy to become ECCE members and convincing Spain to join us again.

ECCE President thanks Huseyin Kaya for his intervention. He says that the ECCE card was an initiative proposed and implemented by the former ECCE President Fernando Branco. It was decided that this would not be a professional card that entitles its owner to any professional rights but it would be an ECCE membership card that would indicate the educational and professional titles the individual ECCE member has in their own country.

Wlodzimierz Szymczak says that the result of our work depends on the approach and involvement of all ECCE National Delegates and the Executive Board. He says that a few years ago under his Presidency it was decided that the Standing Committees that were operating in ECCE should be terminated because they were not working properly and efficiently. He says that a new approach was established under the general term "Position Papers" that was intended to include not only Position Papers as such but also other project based activities. He says that in his opinion this is an approach that is worth it to be continued. He adds that in the presentation about the ECCE Strategic Plan survey he noticed that it was proposed that Position Papers should be short and clear. He agrees with this but in some cases Position Papers should be wider and more comprehensive such as our last Position Paper on the 3S approach. He says that the preparation of Position Papers should be continued because it allows us to create international groups of people cooperating on subjects of common interest.

Iuri Svanidze says that his proposal always was to expand the Standing Committee works and that it is very good and useful to create an ECCE Strategic Plan in order to improve the way we are working and the results we are producing. His opinion is that we should prioritize the Standing Committees and identify what the topics of interest would be so that we focus on them. He also believes that the topic of earthquakes and seismic safety should be among issues to be discussed.

ECCE President thanks Iuri Svanidze for his intervention and asks him to send his proposals in writing so that we can discuss them.

Dimitar Natchev says that he would like to make a comment on Huseyin Kaya's speech. He says that neither FEANI nor ECCE card provide any kind of certificate and license to the card owners to work in European countries.

6. ECCE Financial issues

ECCE Management Accounts until October 2021 – Financial report for information

ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer, Dimitar Natchev, takes the floor to present the ECCE financial report until October 2021 for information only. This report is based on the information that was received by the ECCE accountant Mr. Sean Cross.

For the period 1st January – 30th September 2021 the total ECCE income is **37,555€**. The country that hasn't fulfilled its financial obligations to ECCE for 2021 is only Spain. The Associate Members that have paid their membership fees so far are the Institute of German Engineers - ZDI (Germany) and the Earthquake Planning & Protection Organization - EPPO (Greece). The Associate Members that have not paid their membership fees are Intrakat-Corporate and IESF (France).

The total expenditure for the same period is **13,617€** resulting in a total surplus for the period of **+23,983€**.

The ECCE accumulated fund at the moment is **433,739€**. **In conclusion ECCE is currently in a good financial position.**

The ECCE Financial report for the period 1st January – 30th September 2021 can be found [here](#).

ECCE Membership Fees for 2022

ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer, Dimitar Natchev, continues with the presentation of the proposal of the ECCE Executive Board for the ECCE membership fees for 2022. He says that the ExBo proposes to keep the membership fees at the same level as in the previous year applying a discount of 25% to all ECCE Members and Associate Members. The reason for the discount is that due to the COVID-19 pandemic ECCE's activities and expenses are reduced and the amount that we estimate that will be saved will be returned to our members as a discount in their membership fees.

The proposal for the ECCE Membership Fees 2022 can be accessed [here](#).

Then, the General Assembly is asked to vote for the proposal on the ECCE Membership Fees 2022.

Resolution 73.2:

The proposal for the ECCE Membership Fees for 2022 is approved by majority by the ECCE General Assembly with one abstention.

ECCE Budget for 2022

ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer, Dimitar Natchev, continues with the presentation of the proposal of the ECCE Executive Board for the ECCE budget for 2022. He says that the budget proposal has been disseminated to the ECCE members in advance of the meeting and he asks for any comments or suggestions. The ECCE budget 2022 can be found [here](#).

As no comments or suggestions were received the General Assembly is asked to vote for the proposal on the ECCE Budget 2022.

Resolution 73.3:

The proposal for the ECCE Budget for 2022 is unanimously approved by the ECCE General Assembly.

7. Building Engineering Forum conclusions

Dimitar Natchev takes the floor to announce that the Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria (UCEB) decided to award Aris Chatzidakis with a plaque in honor of his fruitful three year term as ECCE President. He also announces that a plaque will also be awarded to Maria Karanasiou for her excellent work as ECCE General Secretary for the last ten years. He says that they had planned to present these awards in the meeting that was supposed to take place in Sofia but unfortunately the pandemic circumstances did not allow them to do so.

Dimitar Natchev says that the Building Engineering Forum (BEF) that was held virtually as well due to the COVID-19 pandemic was very successful and he gives the floor to Maria Stefanova UCEB General Secretary to say a few words about the BEF.

Maria Stefanova says that the Building Engineering Forum was held on 20th and 21st October 2021 online. The International Conference on Earthquake Engineering was organized by the Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria and the Chamber of Engineers in the Investment design, region Sofia (KIIP, regional branch Sofia-city) with the partnership of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) and the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC). The BEF was held under the auspices of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works of Bulgaria and it was opened with a welcome speech by the Minister of Regional Development and Public Works Mrs. Violeta Komitova. The BEF had three panels dedicated to the evolution of Eurocode 8, to the integrated techniques for the seismic strengthening and energy efficiency of existing buildings and to the anti-seismic design in strengthening, reconstruction and renovation of buildings declared as cultural built heritage / immovable cultural values. The lectures in the panels were related to the BEF motto which is "Turning seismic hazard awareness into risk mitigation. Seismic risk reduction through integrated design". The streamline of lectures was with simultaneous translation in Bulgarian and English. She says that among the participating speakers there were three members of Minutes of the 73rd General Meeting of the European Council of Civil Engineers

the ECCE Executive Board Aris Chatzidakis, Andreas Brandner and Platonas Stylianou who delivered very interesting lectures. There were also lecturers from the Joint Research Center (JRC), Greece, Croatia, Turkey, Portugal, North Macedonia and Bulgaria. She thanks Aris Chatzidakis for his support in the organization of the Conference. She also thanks Nina Drazin Lovrec the President of the Croatian Chamber for her interesting speech on the role of the Chamber – challenges in eliminate the consequences of two devastating earthquakes in Croatia and for providing four more speakers from Croatia willing to share their knowledge and experience and in this way to contribute to the professional upgrade in the field of anti-seismic engineering which is very important for the countries in high seismic risk. She thanks also Fernando Almeida Santos from Portugal, Huseyin Kaya from Turkey and Meri Svetkovska from North Macedonia for their kind cooperation. She says that they are very happy that they had more than 30% of participants from European countries and that a total of 520 attendees were registered to the BEF. All the lectures were very interesting and valuable for structural engineers and the participants expressed their satisfaction and the need for more conferences like this one to be held in the future. After receiving approval from the speakers all the lectures will be uploaded on the BEF website and will be available to everyone. Finally, she says that they are very sorry that they were not able to welcome everyone in Sofia as it was originally planned due to the current pandemic restrictions but she hopes that there will be such an opportunity in the future.

ECCE President expresses his thanks and gratitude to the colleagues from Bulgaria for the honor to award him and Maria Karanasiou. He says that he is moved to hear how his contribution to ECCE is appreciated but he says that it has been a team work from all the members of the ECCE Executive Board that operated as a very strong team all these years. He congratulates UCEB about the organization of the BEF. He says that he has received a call for proposals from the Joint Research Centre which is opening the ELSA Reaction Wall to academia and research organisations, industry and SMEs. He suggests that we should examine it and see if under the umbrella of ECCE we could formulate a proposal about our main goal of combining structural upgrade with energy efficiency upgrade of buildings. He says that efforts are being made by industry to implement new materials (for example Fibran from Thessaloniki) that would serve both purposes at the same time. He says that the priority topics may address, but are not limited to:

- safe and green **renovation** of buildings
- **nanomaterials in buildings and construction** (projects under this topic will use both the ELSA Reaction Wall and the JRC **Nanobiotechnology Laboratory**)
- design and retrofit for **resilience**
- safety of built infrastructure against **multiple hazards**, including **climate change**
- new **materials** and **technologies**
- **sustainable** construction
- application of **advanced testing methods**.

He says that all these topics are in the core of our concerns and we should inspire a team to submit a proposal to JRC and possibly receive the funding to proceed. He says that the reason he mentioned all this is because it was somehow related to the topic of the BEF and now he will return to the normal course of our Agenda.

Platonas Stylianou says that the information the President shared with us about the JRC Elsa Wall is great news because it means that our Position Paper is raising awareness and it seems to be like a continuation of our Position Paper introducing the techniques to implement what we have highlighted already. He mentions that in the Limassol Technical University there are some studies being carried out in the research laboratory by Prof. Kyriakides who was also one of the team members of our Position Paper. Prof. Kyriakides is carrying out some experiments on this topic and it is very good news to know that the JRC opened a call for proposals.

8. New European Bauhaus initiative update

ECCE General Secretary takes the floor to present an update of the New European Bauhaus initiative. The presentation can be found [here](#).

ECCE President says that we are official partners in the NEB initiative and we have to think seriously about what our involvement will be as there are a lot of actions that we could undertake. He says that at the moment we do not have a concrete proposal but it seems that it demands a more professional involvement which is not very easy for organizations like ECCE that operate mainly on a voluntary basis because it would require a lot of resources and time to prepare such initiatives. He says that he is open to comments and ideas.

Andreas Brandner says that he agrees with the President. He says that in Austria they have just started preparing a project and it seems that it demands quite a lot of work so it would require at least one person working exclusively

on the organization of the project bringing all the partners together and bringing some input to it. He says that he will keep us informed about the development of this project.

Jeanette Muñoz Abela says that she is aware that some of our Chambers of Engineers are a mixture of stakeholders of the built environment. One of the ideas she has would be to organize a conference with a theme for example "Sustainable city" and get speakers from the civil engineering, from architecture, urban planning and team up with other associations like ACE and the Chamber of Urban Planners, etc. She says that this would be a way to encompass the spirit of the NEB that promotes an interdisciplinary approach. Each of the speakers could come from a different background and deliver a presentation on the theme we would select from their perspective.

9. Construction Sector News

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis takes the floor and delivers the presentation about the Construction sector news. The presentation can be accessed [here](#).

10. Open discussion

At this point the outgoing President Aris Chatzidakis cordially thanks all ECCE Executive Board members for their excellent cooperation and support during his term as President. He says that he believes that we succeeded a very good team work and it has been an honor for him to be the President of ECCE and the leader of such a capable and valuable team for the last three years.

Andreas Brandner says that he would like to come back to the topic that was discussed earlier by Aris Chatzidakis on the proposal for a new ECCE Position Paper on Infrastructure maintenance. He says that as the incoming President of ECCE he will commit to working on this new Position Paper as it is a very important and crucial topic for civil engineers and society and he asks ECCE members to submit their interest in participating in the working group that will be formed.

11. Official announcement of candidates for the ECCE ExBo 2021-2024 Elections and ratification of the elections instructions

President Chatzidakis gives the floor to the General Secretary Maria Karanasiou to present the elections instructions because this time the elections will be held via an online voting tool and the process will be different. He says that after the presentation of the elections process the General Assembly will be asked to ratify them.

Maria Karanasiou takes the floor and officially announces the candidates for the ECCE ExBo Elections 2021-2024 that have been validated by the ECCE Executive Board.

Candidates for the ECCE ExBo Elections 2021-2024:

Name	Country
Dimitar Natchev	Bulgaria
Helena Endriksone	Latvia
Iuri Svanidze	Georgia
Jeanette Muñoz Abela	Malta
Olga Radulovic	Montenegro
Paul Coughlan	United Kingdom
Platonas Stylianou	Cyprus

Then, Maria Karanasiou presents the elections procedure.

- Elections will be held online via the online voting platform **Election Runner**
- The administrator of the elections will be the ECCE Secretary General Maria Karanasiou.

- The Elections for the New ExBo Members are focused on **six (6) persons to be elected.**
- The New ECE Executive Board will be consisted by:
 - President – Andreas Brandner
 - Immediate Past President - Aris Chatzidakis
 - Six (6) Elected Members that will emerge from the elections
 - General Secretary – Maria Karanasiou (without voting rights)
- The Elections will be held in two phases:
 - **First Phase:** Election of six (6) New ExBo Members (2021 - 2024)
 - **Second Phase:** Election of the New Vice President / President Elect (2021 - 2024)
- Candidates for the post of Vice President/ President Elect could be only amongst the elected persons in the first phase as New ExBo Members.
- **Candidacies for the Vice President/ President Elect post will be submitted to the General Secretary after the end of the First Phase.**
- All Voting Delegates will vote again for electing the Vice President/ President Elect 2021 - 2024.
- The Vice President/ Treasurer will be appointed within the New ECCE ExBo.
- The Voting National Delegate of each ECCE Member organization must be nominated as 1st National Delegate for the 73rd ECCE General Meeting.
- Every member shall have one vote, which shall be cast provided all the annual financial contributions are paid, till that moment (new members) or for the last 3 years, since its last registration as member.
- ECCE Associate Members and ECCE Individual Members do not have voting rights.
- The list of Voting Delegates has been validated and already inserted in the Election Runner application.
- At the starting time of the first phase of the elections, ONLY the Voting Delegate of each ECCE Member will receive an automated email by the Election Runner application with a unique link that will grant them access to the elections ballot.
- In the ballot there will be a list of the candidates' name and country as well as their photo.
- Voting Delegates should select six (6) candidates and then press the submit button.
- The message "Are you sure you want to submit your ballot?" will appear on your screen. Hit YES if you are sure you want to submit your ballot. If you want to review it again before submission press CANCEL and you will be directed back to your ballot.
- Once your ballot is submitted you will not be able to make any changes so please make sure that you double check it before submitting it.
- After submitting your ballot successfully you will receive a confirmation.
- The elections administrator will not be able to see how the voters have voted.
- In order to eliminate the possibility of counting in an invalid ballot the settings of the elections will be such that prevent the voters from submitting a ballot with more or less than the required selections.
- If any of the voters would like to abstain from the elections he/she will have the option not to submit a ballot.
- This piece of information will be only available to the elections administrator and will remain confidential.
- At the conclusion of the election the administrator will have the option to publish and share the results of the election. This allows the voters to view the results of the election from a neutral third-party (Election Runner) and serves to eliminate any doubt regarding the legitimacy of the election's results.

Huseyin Kaya asks if there will be a supervisory committee that will overlook the elections process and he also would like to know how the counting of the votes will be administered.

Maria Karanasiou says that due to the digital way of elections this way there will not be a supervisory committee. She will be the elections administrator and she will share the results of the elections with all the participants after

the end of each elections round. She says that the election runner application counts the votes and publishes the results automatically and she cannot interfere with voting process at all. She mentions that in the election runner there is a function called fraud analysis which provides us with the information necessary to determine if votes are actually fraudulent.

At this point the General Assembly is invited to vote in order to ratify the process that will be followed for the ECCE ExBo Elections 2021-2024.

Resolution 73.4:

The ECCE Executive Board Elections 2021-2024 process is unanimously approved by the ECCE General Assembly.

12. Forthcoming ECCE General Meetings

ECCE President says that so far we haven't received any proposals for hosting the 74th ECCE General Meeting in spring 2022 and asks the ECCE members whether any of them considers this possibility.

Given the current pandemic circumstances and the uncertainty the future holds it seems quite early for any of the members to make such a commitment, so it is decided that the topic will be reconsidered in the beginning of the next year when we will have a clearer idea of what the situation will be.

Saturday 23rd October 2021

13. ECCE Elections 2021

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis announces the commencement of the elections procedure which is going to take place in a virtual way.

The candidates for the elections take the floor one by one to give a short speech and present their manifesto before the voting process. The documentation presented by the candidates can be found [here](#).

The list of voting delegates is the following:

	COUNTRY	NAME / SURNAME
1	Austria	Andreas Brandner
2	Bulgaria	Dimitar Natchev
3	Croatia	Nina Dražin Lovrec
4	Cyprus	Platonas Stylianou
5	Czech Republic	Alois Materna
6	Estonia	Andres Piirsalu
7	Georgia	Iuri Svanidze
8	Greece	Paris Charlaftis
9	Hungary	Gábor Szóllóssy
10	Latvia	Helena Endriksone

11	Lithuania	Žymantas Rudžionis
12	Malta	Jeanette Muñoz Abela
13	Montenegro	Olga Radulovic
14	Poland	Włodzimierz Szymczak
15	Portugal	Fernando de Almeida Santos
16	Russia	Oleg Tyurin
17	Slovakia	Lubos Moravcik
18	Slovenia	Dejan Prebil
19	Turkey	Hüseyin Kaya
20	Ukraine	Nikolay Kiryukhin
21	United Kingdom	Paul Coughlan

After the conclusion of the candidates' presentation the first phase of the elections takes place which elects the new Executive Board Members.

The election results from the first phase of the elections are the following:

ECCE Executive Board 2021-2024

Option	Votes	
 Jeannette MUNOZ ABELA - Malta	16%	20
 Paul COUGHLAN - United Kingdom	16%	20
 Platonas STYLIANOU - Cyprus	16%	20
 Helena ENDRIKSONE - Latvia	14%	18
 Olga RADULOVIC - Montenegro	14%	18
 Dimitar NATCHEV - Bulgaria	13%	16
 Iuri SVANIDZE - Georgia	11%	14

During the second phase of the elections Platonas Stylianou is the only elected Executive Board member that submits a candidacy for the position of the ECCE Vice President/ President Elect. A second round of voting takes place in order for the ECCE General Assembly to ratify that Platonas Stylianou will become the ECCE Vice President/ President Elect for the period 2021-2024.

The election results from the second phase of the elections are the following:

ECCE Vice President/ President Elect 2021-2024

Option	Votes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Platonas STYLIANOU - Cyprus	100%	21

Resolution 73.5:

After the elections procedure the ECCE Executive Board for 2021 – 2024 is thereafter composed of the following persons:

Andreas Brandner	President
Aris Chatzidakis	Immediate Past President
Platonas Stylianou	Vice President/ President Elect
Helena Endriksone	Vice President / Treasurer
Paul Coughlan	Executive Board Member
Jeanette Muñoz Abela	Executive Board Member
Dimitar Natchev	Executive Board Member
Olga Radulovic	Executive Board Member

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis congratulates everyone who participated in the voting process and especially the newly elected Executive Board who is going to be leading the European Council of Civil Engineers for the next three years.

Platonas Stylianou who is elected Vice President / President Elect takes the floor and thanks everyone for their support and trust in him and promises that he will try hard in order to offer his services to ECCE and to the civil engineering profession.

Huseyin Kaya takes the floor. He thanks the General Secretary Maria Karanasiou for her performance and the work she has been doing for ECCE. He also thanks the former Vice President / Treasurer Dimitar Natchev for his work all these years and for helping to maintain ECCE in a good financial status. Finally, he thanks Aris Chatzidakis for his efforts during the three years of his Presidency on his behalf as well as on behalf of the Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers. Then, he congratulates the new ECCE President Andreas Brandner and the new Vice President/ President Elect Platonas Stylianou, and he wishes them a successful term. Finally, he wishes success to all the new ECCE ExBo members and expresses his trust in them for the effort they will make to support ECCE and its goals.

The former ECCE Immediate Past President Wlodzimierz Szymczak takes the floor. He says that this is his last moment in the ECCE Executive Board after nine years. He thanks Maria Karanasiou for their long term collaboration and the help she provided all these years and he also thanks all the ECCE members for their collaboration. He congratulates the new ECCE ExBo and especially Platonas Stylianou and Andreas Brandner who are starting their path in the leadership of ECCE.

14. Speech of the new ECCE President Andreas Brandner

The new ECCE President Andreas Brandner takes the floor to address his inaugural speech which is quoted below.

“Dear Colleagues,

I do not want to try your patience and your wish to go into the well-deserved weekend too much therefore I will keep it short.

On the occasion of the inauguration of my presidency, I would like to start by thanking you for the trust you have placed in me since my election as president-elect 3 years ago.

During these 3 years I have worked with a very good team in the Executive Board and I would like to thank all of them for that as well. I especially like to thank my predecessor Aris Chazidakis, who took me along and guided me slowly to my new position. Dear Aris, I thank you for that and at the same time I would like to ask you to continue to be a teacher and companion for me and to let me share your knowledge, your contacts.

Then, I congratulate the new and old ExBo members and the new President Elect Platonas Stylianou. I hope we will form an active team to work on all the items coming up.

In order to give ECCE even more weight, I will - as I have already indicated 3 years ago - try to motivate the former members, who have left in the past to join ECCE again and also to win new members - like the Benelux countries or the Scandinavian states. I will now tackle this directly.

At the end of the last 3 years we started a survey from which we wanted to ask for the wishes and ideas of our members in order to have a basis for our new term of office. Here are a few points that are important to me personally.

It has become more and more apparent in recent years that decisions affecting us as engineers - professional access, education and training, cross-border activity and recognition and much more - are mainly made in Brussels, which is why I believe that we need to strengthen our lobbying here and join forces with other interested parties in our profession in order to be able to represent our concerns with appropriate strength. We will therefore intensify and use the existing contacts and cooperation with ECEC and FEANI but also with other international engineering organizations.

In the now propagated topics of the Commission - Green Deal, Climate Change, New European Bauhaus, Construction 2050, etc. - we as engineers can make a significant contribution. ... - we as engineers can contribute a lot and will also engage ourselves to bring in our ideas of a holistic approach in these topics. This has made a good start with our position paper 3S and must be further developed. We will contribute here as competent partners and providers of ideas.

In order to raise the social status of engineers and to emphasize us as competent solution-oriented partners in the public opinion, an intensified communication outwards but also inwards - to our members - will be necessary.

However, all of these goals can only be successfully pursued if we work together and everyone does their part to make it happen - by this I mean not just the Executive Board - but all members.

It will also be necessary to constantly review the effectiveness of our efforts and question what we can do better to achieve our goals.

I maintain that I will be personally committed to achieving our goals and to ensuring that a lean organization keeps costs for our members within reasonable limits. However, it should already be clear to everyone that a larger activity can also be associated with a larger financial outlay.

However, we will also consider internally how the problem of co-determination and cost sharing can be solved sensibly and to everyone's satisfaction and this will not lead to thoughts of leaving. We will present appropriate proposals on both our program and the associated costs in a timely manner at the next General Assembly in the spring of 2022.

Thank you for your attention and may I conclude by expressing my wish for a good and successful cooperation. I wish everyone a nice weekend, stay healthy and hopefully we will see each other in person at the next GAM meeting.

Finally, may I thank everyone present for your patience and cooperation, hope for good cooperation and wish everyone good health and continued success."

15. Closing remarks and adjournment of the 73rd ECCE General Meeting by the President

The new ECCE President Andreas Brandner thanks everyone for participating in the 73rd ECCE General Meeting and the elections. He invites the new ECCE ExBo to attend the first ECCE ExBo meeting of this new term that will take place immediately after the closing of the 73rd ECCE General Meeting. The 73rd ECE General Meeting comes to an end.

Minutes prepared by: Maria Karanasiou
ECCE General Secretary