

MINUTES of the 47th MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

23 – 24 May 2008, Hotel de Rome, Riga, Latvia

PARTICIPANTS:

Executive Board (National Delegate = ND):

<i>Surname, First name</i>		<i>ND</i>	<i>Member Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>
Coackley, Richard	President			
Matikainen, Yrjö	Past-President			
Ahrens, Carsten	Senior Vice-President	ND	German Section of ECCE	Germany
Oikonomopoulos, Vasileios	Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer	ND	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Coleman, Murt	Member	ND	Engineers Ireland	Ireland
Ozdemir, Gülay	Member	ND	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Plíčka, Jiří	Member	ND	Czech Institution of Structural and Civil Engineers	Czech Republic
Zlatnaňská, Diana	Secretary General			Slovakia

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

<i>Surname, First name</i>	<i>ND</i>	<i>Member Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>
Dukan, Petar		Croatian Chamber of Architects and Engineers	Croatia
Mihelčić, Dragutin		Croatian Chamber of Architects and Engineers	Croatia
Orešković, Mirko	ND	Croatian Chamber of Architects and Engineers	Croatia
Sever, Zvonimir		Croatian Chamber of Architects and Engineers	Croatia
Akyel, Selcan		Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Altan, Simten		Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Constantinides, Andreas		Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Siamaris, Christodoulos		Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Stylianou, Nicos	ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Türker, Umut		Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Yetiner, Hüsseyin Ünsal		Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Kala, Urmo	ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Haapamäki, Jorma		Finnish Association of Civil Engineers	Finland
Sarja, Asko		Finnish Association of Civil Engineers	Finland
Soimakallio, Helena	ND	Finnish Association of Civil Engineers	Finland
Vehmaskoski, Teemu		Finnish Association of Civil Engineers	Finland
Pilot, Georges	ND	National Council of Engineers and Scientists of France	France
Slopianka, Gert		German Section of ECCE	Germany
Zachmann, Karlheinz		German Section of ECCE	Germany
Bonazountas, Marc		Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Charari, Akrivi		Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Chatzidakis, Aristodimos		Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Ioannidis, Georgios		Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Karlaftis, Aristides		Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Papagiannides, Dimitri		Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Zygouris, Nick		Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Mecsi, József		Hungarian Chamber of Engineers	Hungary
Szóllóssy, Gábor	ND	Hungarian Chamber of Engineers	Hungary
Gava, Alcide	ND	National Council of Engineers	Italy
Endriksone, Helena		Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Geme, Vija	ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Jurjans, Aivars		Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Naudzuns, Juris		Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Straume, Martins		Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia

Aleknavičienė, Ana		Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Kikutienė, Nijolė		Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Lygnugariene, Grazina		Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Stragys, Vincentas	ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Cassar, Vincent	ND	Chamber of Architects and Civil Engineers of Malta	Malta
Branco, Fernando	ND	Order of Engineers	Portugal
Ispas, Traian-Dumitru	ND	Union of Associations of Civil Engineers of Romania	Romania
Manoliu, Iacint		Union of Associations of Civil Engineers of Romania	Romania
Humar, Gorazd		Slovenian Chamber of Engineers	Slovenia
Zadnik, Branco	ND	Slovenian Chamber of Engineers	Slovenia
Sáez Rubio, José Francisco	ND	Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
Dari, Levent		Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Tankut, Tugrul		Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Howell, David	ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	United Kingdom
Lloyd Roach, David		Institution of Civil Engineers	United Kingdom
Pearce, Melissa		Institution of Civil Engineers	United Kingdom

Guests:

<i>Surname, First name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>
Blaffart, Leon Jean	FEANI	Belgium
Kerr, Colin J.	EUCEET; Imperial College London	United Kingdom
Neocleous, Nicos	EUCEET; Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus

Apologies:

<i>Member Organization</i>	<i>Country</i>
Polish Society of Civil Engineers	Poland
Russian Society of Civil Engineers	Russia
Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovakia

CONTENT:

- Welcome Speech by ECCE President Richard Coackley
- Welcome Address and Introduction by LBS President Martins Straume and Minister of Environment Raimonds Vejonis
- Member Introductions and Welcome to New ECCE Member
- Progress of preparing ECCE Book on "Civil Engineering Heritage"
- Project "India-Built: SCP Strategy for the "Building Sector" of India & Adjacent LDCs: 2010-2020" - Information and Tasks of ECCE
- Standing Committees Sessions:
 - SC Professional Recognition & Mobility
 - SC Knowledge & Technology
 - SC Development & Business Environment
 - SC Education & Training
 - SC Environment & Sustainability
 - TF Civil Engineering Heritage
- Common Platform vs. Professional Card
- Presentations from Latvian Association of Civil Engineers on
 - "Cooperation in Education and Professional Recognition Approach between Baltic States"
 - "Daugava River South Bridge Crossing in Riga"
 - "Experience and Development of the Construction Products Directive in Latvia"
 - "Implementation of Eurocodes and market surveillance of construction products in Latvia"
- Theme of the 47th ECCE Meeting - "Development of Infrastructure: Projects influence on local building market (Demand and Supply side)" Development of Infrastructure projects (Environmental and Transport projects) co-financed by EU.
- Possible feedback reports from ECCE members: Climate Change and Built Environment: Energy efficiency, savings and solutions (Technical measures, Economical results, Environmental Benefits)
- Feedback from ECCE Standing Committees Sessions
- Information on Earthquake & Tsunami Congress 2009

13. Information on ECCE Elections 2008
14. Report on the activities of the World council of Civil Engineers
15. ECCE Management Accounts 2007; ECCE Membership Fees 2009
16. Preparation of the 48th ECCE Meeting

Minutes of the 47th Meeting of the European Council of Civil Engineers¹

Meeting was opened by Richard Coackley, President of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE) who thanked all the delegates and guests for their participation.

1. Welcome Speech by Richard Coackley, ECCE President

Richard Coackley welcomed all participants at this meeting and informed the General Assembly the General Assembly about the main activities of the ECCE and its Executive Board since the 47th ECCE meeting. Richard Coackley also highlighted the work of ECCE Standing Committees (SCs) and their Chairmen.

Resolution 47.1:

The Minutes of the 46th ECCE meeting held on October 19-20, 2007 in Athens, Greece, were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

2. Welcome Address and Introduction by Martins Straume, President of the Latvian Association of Civil Engineers and Raimonds Vejonis, Minister of Environment

Martins Straume expressed the gratitude for having the opportunity to organize the 47th ECCE Meeting in Riga that is attended by civil engineers from all over the Europe. Raimond Vejonis highlighted in his speech the importance of civil engineering experts in the view of the importance of sustainable development and the protection of the environment.

3. Member Introductions and Welcome to New ECCE Member

Richard Coackley welcomed Vincent Cassar, Vice-President of Kamra tal Periti (Chamber of Architects & Civil Engineers) from Malta who expressed interest in ECCE membership. Vincent Cassar shortly introduced main goals and activities of Kamra tal Periti. As he is an Executive Board member of the Architects' Council of Europe (ACE), Vincent Cassar also proposed a closer cooperation of ECCE and ACE.

National delegates from each ECCE Member organization presented themselves as well as other participants at the 47th ECCE Meeting.

Resolution 47.2:

Kamra tal Periti (Chamber of Architects & Civil Engineers) from Malta was unanimously approved by the General Assembly as a new member of the European Council of Civil Engineers.

4. Progress of preparing ECCE Book on "Civil Engineering Heritage" (Gorazd Humar, Chairman for TF Civil Engineering Heritage)

Gorazd Humar informed the General Assembly that some member organizations have not yet submitted their projects and therefore the deadlines for finishing this project have to be postponed. Latest deadline for submission of articles is August 30, 2008. Conclusion of the activities on collecting articles will be presented at the 48th ECCE Meeting and the whole publication could be presented at the 49th ECCE Meeting.

5. Project "India-Built: SCP Strategy for the "Building Sector" of India & Adjacent LDCs: 2010-2020" - Information and Tasks of ECCE (Marc Bonazountas, Chairman for SC Environment & Sustainability)

Marc Bonazountas informed the General Assembly in his presentation on the current European commission programmes and calls for proposals co-financed by EU. He also informed the General Assembly that the Grant Application on the project "India-Built": SCP Strategy for the "Building Sector" of India & Adjacent LDCs: 2010-2020, submitted in February 2008 (ECCE was one of the project partners) was declined. After analysing the reasons he

¹ For more information on each point of the agenda, please see the CD "Presentation from the 47th ECCE Meeting"

confirmed that application can be amended and submitted for the next call in September 2008. As there will be new calls for proposals within the programme FP 7 announced in autumn 2008, ECCE could also join as partner in another project application.

6. Standing Committees (SCs) Sessions

ECCE Standing Committees Chairmen shortly introduced the matters to be discussed during their SC session. Then all ECCE Standing Committee Sessions took place in accordance to the agenda of this meeting.

7. Common Platform vs. Professional Card

Richard Coackley welcomed guest speakers at this forum that will enable participants to see and understand different approaches with regard to the recognition and mobility of civil engineers across Europe.

Fernando Branco, Chairman of ECCE SC for Professional Recognition and Mobility highlighted that a profession of civil engineer is different in each European country as it embraces different activities in each country. He therefore recommended partial recognition as the solution for the recognition of civil engineers' qualifications in EU.

Mirko Orešković, President of the European Council of Engineers' Chambers (ECEC) stressed that civil engineers should be recognized as the profession. Civil engineers deliver the same product in each country and their recognition should focus more on the best-quality engineers.

Léon Jean Blaffart from the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI) introduced the outcomes of the project "Feasibility Study on European Professional Card" that was concluded in April 2008. The goal of this study was to give an answer to the question whether such a Professional ID Card could contribute to the facilitation of mobility in EU and come up with the concept of mobility of engineers in EU.

8. Presentations from Latvian Association of Civil Engineers on

a) "Cooperation in Education and Professional Recognition Approach between Baltic States"

Andris Kreslinš from the Faculty of Civil Engineering (Riga Technical University) about the Agreement on common educational environment in the Baltic States that was concluded in December 2000. Baltic States have similar competent authorities - associations of engineers, which already act according to the European Directive 2005/36/EC and already are able to fulfill the drafted ECCE Professional Recognition Agreement.

b) "Daugava River South Bridge Crossing in Riga"

Igor Kolushev, Director General of the JSC "Institute Giprostroymost Saint-Petersburg, gave the technical presentation on the Daugava River South Bridge Crossing in Riga, which participants will visit during the technical site visit on the second day of the meeting. The project is planned to be completed in autumn 2008.

c) "Experience and Development of the Construction Products Directive in Latvia"

Uldis Rekners, Director of the Latvian Conformity Assessment Centre of Construction Products, informed the General Assembly on the Transposition of Construction Products Directive (CPD) and the general principles of the movement of construction products. He introduced the problems faced in Latvia and the possible solutions found.

d) "Implementation of Eurocodes and market surveillance of construction products in Latvia"

Andris Steinerts, Head of Building regulation unit at the Building department, informed the General Assembly on the construction sector in Latvia and the supervision of construction process in Latvia. To implement Eurocodes in Latvia by 2010, several activities need to be accomplished, such as adoption of Eurocode standards in Latvian National and their translation, implementation of the National annexes, training of Latvian experts and university professors, implementation of Eurocode methodology in university curricula for civil engineering students; implementation of Eurocode requirements in Latvian Building codes; dissemination of information on structural design according to Eurocode.

9. "Development of Infrastructure: Projects influence on local building market (Demand and Supply side)" "Development of Infrastructure projects (Environmental and Transport projects) co-financed by EU"

"Development of Infrastructure: Projects influence on local building market" was the theme of the 47th ECCE Meeting, announced at the previous 46th ECCE Meeting in October 2007. Participants from ECCE member organizations gave the following presentations:

- France – Georges Pilot (CNISF): DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS CO-FINANCED BY EU: Situation in France (2000-2006)

- Finland – Helena Soimakallio (RIL): STATE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENT
- Turkey – Tugrul Tankut (IMO): SOCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF SOUTH-EASTERN ANATOLIA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
- Romania – Traian Ispas, Iacint Manoliu (UAICR): REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM 2007 - 2013

10. Possible feedback reports from ECCE members: Climate Change and Built Environment: Energy efficiency, savings and solutions (Technical measures, Economical results, Environmental Benefits)

During this session, Georges Pilot (CNISF, France) gave a presentation on the Buildings and Energy Efficiency in France. Latvian Association of Civil Engineers invited Valdis Bisters from the Latvian Ministry of the Environment who gave a presentation on Challenging climate change: energy efficiency perspective.

11. Feedback from ECCE Standing Committees

A. SC Professional Recognition & Mobility

Chairman – Fernando Branco, ExBo Rapporteur – Jiří Plíčka

Based on the feedback sent by some member organizations, ECCE Civil Engineering Charter was introduced for approval of the General Assembly. As some member organizations noted that civil engineering acts are slightly different from those mentioned in the Charter. It was agreed at the plenary session that each member will submit "Country Annex to ECCE Civil Engineering Charter" by the end of September 2007 to ECCE Secretariat, and the ECCE Civil Engineering Charter will be approved, together with all annexes at the 48th ECCE Meeting. Fernando Branco also introduced the draft of the ECCE Professional Recognition Agreement. Members are invited to submit their comments and proposals to the agreement by the beginning of September 2008.

A question of Common Platform was also discussed within this session,. Richard Coackley informed the General Assembly that European Commission asked ECCE to submit a proposal for the common platform for civil engineers according to the EU Directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications. General Assembly gave a power to Executive Board to act on behalf of ECCE in the submission of materials and documents for the common platform.

B. SC Knowledge & Technology

Chairman – Asko Sarja, ExBo Rapporteur – Gülay Ozdemir

Asko Sarja reported on the activities and outcomes of task forces (TFs) under this standing committee:

- TF1: Development of Knowledge and Technology in Civil Engineering at European level (Chair: Georges Pilot): Georges Pilot informed the General Assembly on the current actions in the European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation and asked for the ECCE decision on the membership in the European Construction and Technology Platform (ECTP).
- TF2: Energy Efficiency of Buildings in Europe (Chair: Asko Sarja): This Task Force prepared, together with Karlheinz Zachmann an ECCE Memorandum on the energy efficiency of buildings for sustainability in European Union. Task force will further focus on the analysis of European Low Energy Building and Renovation Concepts and planning of a Symposium on Low Energy Building and Renovation Concepts in the Conference EUROINFRA 2009, Helsinki, Finland.
- TF3: Condition Survey of European Infrastructure (Chair: Helena Soimakallio): ECCE Members are kindly invited to identify active organisations in each country for planning and executing National Survey of Condition of Infrastructure in European Network Exploring the possibility and possible application of EU Funding for a Network in this issue: EUROINFRA (In co-operation with TF 1). This TF plans also to prepare a proposal for International ECCE Symposium 2009: "State and Condition Management of Infrastructure". This symposium will be organized together with the 50th ECCE meeting in autumn 2009.
- TF 4: Earthquake Engineering (Chair: Tugrul Tankut): This TF is currently focusing on the preparation of the WCCE-ECCE-TCCE Conference "Earthquake & Tsunami - Civil Engineering Disaster Mitigation Activities Implementing Millennium Development Goals" to be held on 22-24 June 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey. Second Circular and Call for Papers are under distribution.

Resolution 47.3:

General Assembly unanimously approved the associate membership of ECCE in the European Construction and Technology Platform (ECTP) through the European Council for Construction Research, Development and Innovation (ECCREDI).

C. SC Development & Business Environment

Chairman - Karlheinz Zachmann, ExBo Rapporteur – Murt Coleman

Mr. Zachmann informed the General Assembly on the active participation in the European Construction Forum (ECF) - informal gathering of 10 professional associations directly linked with the Construction sector. Next meeting is scheduled before summer 2008 and ECCE Executive board approved that the autumn meeting will be hosted by ECCE. Main issues discussed within ECF are the "new" New Approach of the Internal Market "Package", revision of the Construction Products Directive, liability and insurance, and the small business act. With regard to the European Energy Efficiency week, ECF postponed its own presentation due to the activities of FOCOPE without taking contact.

D. SC Education & Training

Chairman –Iacint Manoliu, ExBo Rapporteur – Carsten Ahrens

Juris Naudzuns gave a short presentation on the Higher Civil Engineering education and study schemes in Latvia. Together with Iacint Manoliu, they informed the General Assembly on the results of the phase II of the ECCE Survey on the position of ECCE member organizations on the changes induced by the Bologna process in civil engineering education. Report on the survey on ECCE position on accreditation of civil engineering programmes in Europe will be presented by Mustafa Tokay at the 48th ECCE Meeting. Iacint Manoliu also informed the General Assembly on the EUR-ACE Implementation project and on the proposal of a EUR-ACE Spread project and informed the General Assembly on 8 themes of the EUCEET III (European Civil Engineering Education and Training). Colin Kerr, gave a presentation on the Theme H of the EUCEET III project which is "Developing a synergy between academic and professional words", a good opportunity for a new EUCEET-ECCE joint effort.

E. SC Environment & Sustainability

Chairman – Prof. Marc Bonazountas, ExBo Rapporteur – Vassilis Economopoulos

During this SC session, all participants focused on defining the common areas to conclude and come up with the task forces and activities of this SC for the future. The following taskforces were established:

- TF 1: WATER – chair: Umut Türker
- TF 2: WASTE – chair: Gert Slopianka
- TF 3: PROMOTION – chair: Marc Bonazountas

Business plan of all taskforces will be defined by the end of June 2008. Based on the established task forces, standing committee will focus on the EU calls of proposals in the area of water and / or waste, where ECCE could be the partner.

F. TF Civil Engineering Heritage

Chairman – Gorazd Humar, ExBo Rapporteur – Yrjö Matikainen

Gorazd Humar once again stressed the importance to have articles from each ECCE member organization as the book should represent the civil engineering heritage in the Europe.

For more detailed information on the work of each Standing Committee please see the CD "47th ECCE Meeting" that was given to each national delegate at the end of the meeting or contact SC Chairmen or ECCE Secretariat or see the ECCE website www.ecceengineers.eu.

12. Information on WCCE-ECCE-TCCE Joint Conference „Earthquake & Tsunami” (Tugrul Tankut, Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers - TCCE)

Tugrul Tankut informed the General Assembly on the current activities of the WCCE – ECCE - TCCE Joint Conference on Earthquake & Tsunami that will take place in on June 22-24, 2009 in Istanbul. ECCE will actively participate at this conference through the TF on Earthquakes of the SC "Knowledge & Technology". Theme include: Lessons learnt from recent earthquakes and tsunamis, Disaster mitigation vis-à-vis the Millennium Development Goals, Seismic design considerations and codes, Seismic risk assessment and retrofitting of existing structures and Earthquake & tsunami modelling. Theodosios Tassios (Greece) is the ECCE Representative in the International Advisory Board of this Conference. Second Circular of the Conference was sent to all ECCE member organization.

13. Information on ECCE Elections 2008

Richard Coackley informed the General Assembly on the election of the ECCE Executive Board that will take place at the 48th ECCE Meeting in October 2008. Written announcement for the ECCE Executive Board Elections will be e-mailed to all member organizations by June 20, 2008, and the last announcement will be e-mailed by September 5, 2008. Deadline for sending nominations to the ECCE Executive Board is 21 days prior the meeting. Nominations for Candidates from ECCE Member organizations applying for election to the Executive Board shall submit their names

with their personal profile and manifesto, shall be proposed and seconded in writing by two members and shall have the written approval of their own ECCE member organization. Late applications may be approved / rejected by the Board. The requirement for sending the nomination is that the member organization must have their membership fees paid before sending the nomination.

Resolution 47.4:

General Assembly unanimously approved the presented election 2008 procedures and requirement of paid membership fees before sending the nomination.

14. Report on the activities of the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE)

Gülay Özdemir informed the General Assembly that WCCE became an international member of World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) in January 2008. Contacts were made also with civil engineering institutions from Angola, Cape Vert, El Salvador, Chile and Argentina, China, India and Nigeria. WCCE also signed cooperation agreement with ALAEST (Latin American Engineering Association of Health and Safety).

15. Financial Matters

Vassilis Economopoulos, ECCE Vice-President and Treasurer, presented the current situation of paid and unpaid membership fees in the years 2006 – 2008, the ECCE Statutory Accounts for the year 2007, ECCE Management Accounts until April 2008, the ECCE Budget for the year 2008. Proposal for the ECCE membership fees for the year 2009 was also introduced.

Resolution 47.5:

The ECCE Statutory Accounts of the year 2007 were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

Resolution 47.6:

The ECCE membership fees for the year 2009 were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

▪ Preparation of the 48th ECCE Meeting

The Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers confirmed to organize the 48th meeting in October 17-18, 2008 in Cyprus in Larnaka and Famagusta. The Theme of the 48th ECCE General Assembly Meeting will be „Water – Demand and Supply: Water Scarcity, Water Reuse, Grey Water, and Water Desalination“. All members are invited to present the presentation on this theme at the 48th ECCE Meeting.

President thanked the host – the Latvian Association of Civil Engineers and closed the 47th ECCE Meeting on May 24, 2008.

Diana Zlatňanská, June 10, 2007