

PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 9th November 2015

62nd ECCE General Meeting – 30th ECCE Anniversary 30 – 31 October 2015 Prague, Czech Republic



Workshop at UCEEB

The 62nd ECCE General Meeting – 30th ECCE Anniversary was held on 30th – 31st October 2015, in Prague, in Czech Republic, hosted by the Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians (CKAIT). The 62nd ECCE General Meeting consisted of three parts. The first one was a short workshop that took place on Friday 30th October at the University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings ([UCEEB](#)) organized by the hosts, then it was the regular General Meeting of ECCE and the third part was the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the

founding of “the Society of Architects and Engineers of the Kingdom of Bohemia (SIA)” that took place on 31st October at the Bethlehem Chapel.

ECCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak officially opened the 62nd ECCE General Meeting welcoming all the participants and especially the ones that joined our meeting for the first time: the ICE General Director and Secretary, Nick Baveystock and the WCCE new President Ing. Alfonso Alberto Gonzalez Fernandez. In his opening speech he highlighted that we were about to conclude the year of the 30th ECCE Anniversary but this year would also be remembered for another very sad and unfortunate reason which is the unexpected passing of our friend and ECCE Past President Vassilis Economopoulos. A moment of silence was observed by all the participants as a gesture of respect to the recently deceased friend.



From left to right: ECCE President awarding Nick Baveystock ICE Executive Director & Secretary

During the first part of the ECCE General Meeting, a lecture was delivered by Prof. Ing. Petr Hájek, Head of Department Research Programme Architecture and Environment, about Research in Czech Republic. Prof. Hájek also introduced and described UCEEB and their activities to the audience and following the lecture there was a guided tour to the UCEEB’s premises including the laboratories, where people had the chance to get a better understanding of the concept of UCEEB and the projects they undertake.

The second part of the ECCE meeting was attended by 50 delegates and invited guests. Ārtomir Remec ECEC President, Klaus Thurriedl ECEC Secretary

General, Nikolay Kiryukhin President of the Union of scientific and engineering associations of Ukraine and Emilio Colon WCCE Past President were among the invited guests. During the second part of the meeting a memorial presentation for Vassilis Economopoulos was delivered by the ECCE President and following this friends and colleagues that wished to say something about Vassilis took the floor. Also, ECCE President awarded the ICE as one of the founders of ECCE 30 years ago. During the meeting of the ECCE General Assembly a number of important issues were discussed and several significant decisions were taken regarding the strategy and the future of ECCE. Firstly, the Update/Change of our Articles of Association was finalized and voted by the General Assembly. The major changes that were introduced concern the following subjects:

- Opening of Individual Membership to ECCE (with the status similar to Associate Membership).
- Introduction of the ECCE Civil Engineering Card as an ECCE membership card (the card is connected with the ECCE Individual Membership).
- Extension of the Executive Board mandate from two years to three years after 2018.



From left to right: ECCE President Włodzimierz Szymczak and CKAIT President Pavel Křeček

Another important change for the future of ECCE is related with the termination of the ECCE Standing Committees during the 63rd ECCE General Meeting, in March 2016. Instead of focusing on Standing Committees, ECCE will focus on the production of solid and good quality Position Papers that will reflect ECCE's positions and that will be brought forward to Brussels. In this way ECCE will boost its visibility and our goal of influencing the EU Authorities will become more likely. A detailed document regarding these changes and the new procedures for the tendering and production of ECCE Position Papers will be published in the close future. In addition, important discussions were held about the financial matters in ECCE (budget and

membership fees) and following up these initial discussions further steps will be taken in order for ECCE to cope with the new circumstances. Last but not least, the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations were discussed and brought to the attention of ECCE members.

On Saturday afternoon, all the participants attended the 150th SIA Anniversary. Before the ceremonial opening of the event there was an exhibition about the 150 years of SIA. During the event the results of the survey on TOP TEN personalities of Civil Engineering and Architecture 1865 – 2015 were announced. Also, the “Tree of Life” associations working in the field of construction and architecture which operated between 1865 - 2015 in the Czech Republic was presented to the public. This festive meeting was organized in cooperation with the leadership of the Czech Technical University in Prague. The event was attended by invited leaders of government, local authorities, professional associations and professional schools, architects, designers, building contractors and manufacturers of building materials. At the end of the meeting a reception was organized for all the participants.



From left to right: Nicola Monda (CNI, Italy), Gabor Szollossy (HCO, Hungary), Alfonso Alberto Gonzalez Fernandez WCCE President, Włodzimierz Szymczak ECCE President, Črtomir Remec ECEC President, Emilio Colon WCCE Past President, Gorazd Humar ECCE ExBo Member and Past President

The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to express its gratitude to the Czech Chamber of Certified Engineers and Technicians for the successful organization of the 62nd ECCE General Assembly and their exceptional hospitality.