

MINUTES of the 66th GENERAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

4th October 2017, Vienna, Austria

PARTICIPANTS:

Executive Board (National Delegate = ND):

Surname, First name	ND	Member Organization	Country	
Chatzidakis, Aris		President - Elect, Vice-President	Association of Civil Engineers of Greece	Greece
Natchev, Dimitar		Treasurer, Vice - President	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Saez, Jose Francisco	1 st ND	Member	Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos	Spain
Piirsalu, Andres	1 st ND	Member	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Karanasiou, Maria		General Secretary	-	Greece

Apologies:

Szymczak, Włodzimierz	<i>Immediate Past President - Acting President</i>	<i>Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers</i>	<i>Poland</i>
Svanidze, Iuri	<i>Member</i>	<i>Georgian Society of Civil Engineers</i>	<i>Georgia</i>

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

Surname	Name	Position	Organization	Country
Brandner	Andreas	1 st ND	Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants	Austria
Simeonov	Georgi	1 st ND	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Stefanova	Maria	2 nd ND	Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Paska	Ivan	1 st ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
Sokolić	Željko	2 nd ND	Croatian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Croatia
Dimitriou	Georgios	1 st ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Stylianou	Platonas	2 nd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Kutruza	Bora	3 rd ND	Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers	Cyprus
Materna	Alois	1 st ND	Czech Chamber of Chartered Engineers and Technicians	Czech Republic
Ruben	Tiia	2 nd ND	Estonian Association of Civil Engineers	Estonia
Delaporte	Brice	1 st D AM	Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France (IESF)	France
Ahrens	Carsten	1 st D AM	Zentralverband Deutscher Ingenieure e.V. - ZDI	Germany
Szollossy	Gabor	1 st ND	Hungarian Chamber of Engineers	Hungary
Madaras	Botond	2 nd ND	Hungarian Chamber of Engineers	Hungary
Geme	Vija	1 st ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Hendriksone	Helena	2 nd ND	Latvian Association of Civil Engineers	Latvia
Stragys	Vincentas	1 st ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Cepulis	Audrius	2 nd ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Sakalauskiene	Lina	3 rd ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Kikutiene	Liucija Nijole	4 th ND	Lithuanian Association of Civil Engineers	Lithuania
Lukovic	Nikola	1 st ND	Montenegrin Chamber of Engineers	Montenegro
Radulovic	Olga	2 nd ND	Montenegrin Chamber of Engineers	Montenegro
Meyer	Zygmunt	1 st ND	Polish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Poland
Soares	Paulo	1 st ND	Order of Engineers	Portugal
Vyskoc	Anton	1 st ND	Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovak Republic
Moravcik	Lubos	2 nd ND	Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovak Republic
Zivner	Josef	3 rd ND	Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovak Republic
Zadnik	Branko	1 st ND	Slovenian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovenia



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Humar	Gorazd	2 nd ND	Slovenian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovenia
Medved	Samo Peter	3 rd ND	Slovenian Chamber of Civil Engineers	Slovenia
Tankut	Tugrul	1 st ND	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Kaya	Hüseyin	2 nd ND	Turkish Chamber of Civil Engineers	Turkey
Coughlan	Paul	1 st ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK
Farmer	Ingrid	2 nd ND	Institution of Civil Engineers	UK
Gonzalez	Alberto Alfonso	1 st Inv. Ass.	WCCE	Spain
Colon	Emilio	2 nd Inv. Ass.	WCCE	Spain
Al-Hadithi	Adil	1 st Inv. Ass.	EAMC	Egypt
Monda	Nicola	2 nd Inv. Ass.	EAMCE	Italy

Apologies:

Surname, First name / Member Organization

Massimo Mariani
Abela, Jeanette
Jovanovic, Ranka

Country

Italy
Malta
Serbia

1. Opening of the Meeting

ECCE Vice President / President Elect Aris Chatzidakis (AC) chairs the 66th ECCE General Meeting due to the absence of the ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak.

AC opens the 66th ECCE General Meeting that was hosted by the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants. He welcomes the participants and cordially thanks our hosts for organizing this ECCE General Assembly in Vienna, at the marvelous building of "Haus der Ingenieure". He announces to the participants that a letter has been sent on behalf of the ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak in which he explains the reasons why he was not able to attend this meeting which will be read after the welcome speech of the President of the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants Christian Aulinger.

The President of the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants Christian Aulinger takes the floor and addresses an opening speech. He initially gives some short introduction about the structure of the Federal Chamber. He mentions that they represent both Architects and Civil Engineers who are liberal professional engineers and they have about 6.500 members with an active license. They have 4 regional Chambers which are the 4 members of the Federal Chamber. In their competence are all the common matters that affect professional, social and economic interests of their members at a national level. He mentions that the European and international cooperation is a very important aspect of their work and this is one of the reasons why the members of their leading functionaries have also taken leading roles in European professional organizations. Currently, the topics of their focus are the professional regulation and procurement legislation both at national and at European level. He expresses his anticipation that the participation of the Federal Chamber in ECCE will bring a further boost to their European work and wishes everyone a fruitful meeting.

At this point Maria Karanasiou takes the floor and reads the letter of the ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak to the attendees. In his letter Włodzimierz Szymczak explains that very important personal, family reasons didn't allow him to participate in this meeting. Regardless of his absence he assures the participants that each point of the Agenda, all documents and ideas, which were prepared for this meeting, have been created by the ExBo under his direction and he takes full responsibility for it as the Acting President of the European Council of Civil Engineers. Finally, he appoints ECCE Vice President / President Elect Aris Chatzidakis to represent him and take the Presidential role both during the 66th ECCE GM and during the 3rd European Engineers' Day.

Then, AC introduces an amended Agenda for the 66th ECCE GM that was agreed by the ExBo the previous day. He says that all the Agenda topics will be covered during this day so that Friday morning (when the second part of the GM was predicted) remains free as some members of the GA have to participate at the FEANI meeting that will take place on Friday. The General Assembly members adopt the amended agenda which suggests that the General Meeting will conclude in one day.

2. Introduction of ECCE Members

At this point AC welcomes the EAMC President Adil Al Hadithi and the EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda. He also welcomes the WCCE Past President Emilio Colon. Nicola Monda and Emilio Colon make a short address to the GA. Emilio Colon announces that the WCCE President Alfonso Gonzalez will join the meeting a little bit later. All the representatives of the Full and Associate ECCE Members present themselves and the delegation of their organization to ECCE. Participants are listed in the first couple of pages of the document.

3. 65th ECCE General Meeting minutes approval

AC asks if anyone has any remark regarding the Minutes from the previous meeting in Antalya.

Resolution 66.1:

The Minutes of the 65th ECCE General Meeting in Antalya are unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

The minutes of the 65th ECCE General Meeting can be found [here](#).

4. ECCE brief activity report since June 2017

The Chairman of the meeting AC presents the ECCE brief activity report since June 2017. The ECCE brief activity report since June 2017 can be found [here](#).

The topic of the 3rd European Engineers' Day is incorporated in this presentation. AC presents the agenda of the 3EED and comments on the difficulties that ECCE and ECEC experienced in trying to agree on a common statement with FEANI. He stresses that although it is unfortunate that the three organizations ECCE, ECEC and FEANI haven't been able to prepare a common statement, we should not give up the right to present our point of view during the 3EED. He says that he will try to meet later in the day with ECEC and FEANI Presidents in order to discuss this matter and make a final effort for a common statement.

Jose Francisco Saez Rubio (JFS) takes the floor. He mentions that there is no common statement yet but we can't leave the success of the 3EED on good faith. He says that this is not the first time it happens as we had the same situation in the 2EED when ECCE had to compromise with a text that was presented to us by FEANI and ECEC. He says that it is a pity and that we should try to work for the best interest of the professional engineers rather than for the interest of each organization.

AC informs the delegates about his opening remarks that will be presented in the 3EED during his opening speech. He says that the main remarks will be based on the following concerns:

- The engineering profession will be exercised in a completely digital environment.
- Sustainability should be the major concern of the engineers when it comes to design.
- Ethical and societal concerns must be a major part of engineering education.
- The professional engineering organizations have a very vital role to play in the future.

5. ECCE Position Papers

AC makes an introduction on the two Position Papers that have been prepared during the past months – the Position Paper on "Infrastructure and management of water" whose main author is George Demetriou from Cyprus, and the Position Paper on "Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe" whose authors are Jose Francisco Saez Rubio from Spain with the contribution of AC. He says that after the presentation of the PPs by the two authors, despite the fact that there are some remarks pending, both PPs can be finalized and adopted by the General Assembly according to his opinion because there will not be any essential amendments. He supports closing the chapter of these two PPs in this General Meeting so that new ideas and proposals are elaborated from now on.

Position Paper on "Infrastructure and management of water"

George Demetriou from Cyprus takes the floor to present the final version of the Position Paper on the "Infrastructure and management of water". He introduces the subject he elaborated saying that this PP has a multidimensional approach and it includes a lot of different aspects. Background information is presented and commented and then ECCE's position is reported.

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

Tugrul Tankut (Turkey) takes the floor and says that this is a nice and clear PP which resembles an example of a good ECCE work, so he fully supports it.

Paul Coughlan (UK) says that ICE supports the PP. There are some minor comments from ICE which will be sent in the next few days.

Emilio Colon (WCCE) comments that it is a good PP and he suggests including in it the topic of reuse of waste water and also the references and the minutes of the UN sustainable goals.

Carsten Ahrens (ZDI – Germany) says that George Demetriou is an expert in the subject of water. All the topics are touched from an academic point of view but if it is to be addressed to politicians it should be rather short. He comments also that the working team is mainly from Cyprus so contribution from other countries may be needed in order for the PP to be more complete.

GD agrees with the remark of CA that the PPs should be short. He says that each subject could be given to the politicians separately and that there is also an executive summary of two pages. He mentions that the authors are mainly from Cyprus but comments have been requested by all ECCE members.

Tugrul Tankut says that the PP is indeed long but the executive summary is satisfactory. He also comments that once the PP is adopted by ECCE then it represents ECCE's view.

GD says that currently there is a discussion in the EU about how to deal with the topic of water management, so he says that we should focus on how to follow these developments and express our position.

AC says that GD will incorporate the comments that will be sent by ICE in the next few days. Then, we will have the final PP and the executive summary ready to be published. At this point, AC he asks the General Assembly if they support the adoption of the PP on "Infrastructure and management of water".

Resolution 66.2:

The ECCE General Assembly adopts the Position Paper on "Infrastructure and management of water" unanimously.

The final Position Paper on "Infrastructure and management of water" can be found [here](#).

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

Jose Francisco Saez Rubio takes the floor to present the PP on "Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe" that he has prepared in cooperation with AC. The document has been already disseminated to the ECCE members and he will now bring some history on this. He says that there was a proposal to provide this document due to some initiatives that were presented by the European Commission. He has been working on the same document with two different versions. One of them is an abridged version to be understandable by the politicians and the other one is more academic document providing a comprehensive compilation of the EU initiatives of the last 50 years and Free Trade Agreements. Together with identifying some faulty assessments that were basis for a European Commission study to be held currently onwards we will be able to show some current interregional impact that hasn't been assessed and providing some potential changes always respectful to National Regulations. JFS says that he wants to open the floor for discussion and general comments and he expects that during these days he could meet with the people who have specific proposals for amendments in order to fine-tune and finalize the document. Assessing elements of what should be the conclusions the following elements have been identified:

- **New EU regulation will lack applicability without the committed involvement of professional chambers, concurring views with the European Council of Engineering Chambers - ECEC, and other stakeholders in its discussion, implementation and operation.**
- **Any new EU regulation on professional issues is to be discussed and agreed after a thorough assessment,** taking into account both intra-regional and inter-regional mobility.
- **EU regulations should provide a balanced framework as primary requisite to implement extra-EU professional mobility** under the coverage of EU's current and future Free Trade Agreements - FTAs.
- **All professional recognition regulations regarding civil engineering should bear in mind the specifics of this public service oriented and highly-qualified professional sector** with a duty of care towards all users of any public infrastructure or service.

The scope of the PP is not only to be able to present it to several stakeholders, not only to be a tool for national organizations for the defense of transposition of potential professional recognition but also to be able to express the views of ECCE within Europe and other regional organizations like ECEC or FEANI, transregional organizations like EAMC or world organization like WCCE or WFEO. We need to have some basic ground to understand and to be able to enhance potential joint collaborations on European, transregional and world perspectives.

Tugrul Tankut takes the floor. He says that he has read the document and he thinks that it is in general a criticism to some EU Directives. The criticism seems to be sensible but he finds the conclusions a bit disappointing as he would expect concrete proposals on ways of action. He suggests including concrete proposals in the document and also reviewing the language and making it softer as EU will not accept it.

JFS says that this version of the document doesn't have conclusions because it was prepared to be addressed to a MEP for the Internal Market policy, but we do have conclusions. He also says that the language should be rephrased positively rather than negatively. He stresses that we need to clarify who is the target of the Position Paper on the grounds that the European Commission has already an agenda. He concludes that he will disseminate the correct version of the document that includes the conclusions together with the comments that will be incorporated after the meeting with a team that will elaborate the text.

AC says that the principles of this document are set and there is only a question of the language and fine-tuning of the text. He suggests that a small group should be created in order to finalize the document that has been accepted in principle.

The group will be formed by the following:

- Jose Francisco Saez Rubio
- Aris Chatzidakis
- Paul Coughlan
- Platonas Stylianou
- Andreas Brandner

The aim is to finalize the document until the end of the General Meeting and after its finalization it will be accepted as ECCE Position Paper.

Resolution 66.3:

The ECCE General Assembly unanimously accepts in principle the Position Paper on ""Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe"" and will adopt it as ECCE Position Paper after the finalization of the text from the working group consisting of Jose Francisco Saez Rubio, Aris Chatzidakis, Paul Coughlan, Platonas Stylianou and Andreas Brandner.

6. ECCE Financial Matters

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

The first topic is the management accounts until September 2017 for information of the ECCE members. He reports that concerning the income of ECCE there are still pending payments from Georgia, Greece, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine. Currently, we are missing -8,485.41€ from ECCE full members comparing to the budget and -4,258.00€ from ECCE Associate Members. The ECCE Associate Members that have not paid their annual fee yet are Association of Civil Engineers of Costa Rica (ACECR), Romanian Association of Civil Engineers (AICR), EPSILON SA, EUCEET Association and IESF (France). Azerbaijan will start paying membership fees from 2018. There is also an income of 200.45€ from Individual Associate Members. The expenditures so far sum up to 26,837€ and the ECCE accumulated fund is 384,154€ with a surplus of +30,898€. In general, currently ECCE is in a good financial situation.

Then Dimitar Natchev presents the proposed budget for 2018 that has been already disseminated to the ECCE Members. He mentions that the budget is in principle the same as it was in 2017 with the only difference that we have predicted an expenditure of 6,000€ related to the 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers.

Resolution 66.4:

The ECCE Budget for 2018 was approved unanimously by the ECCE General Assembly.

Following the acceptance of the budget, Dimitar Natchev presented the ECCE Financial Rules. He says that ECCE as a strong organization must have Financial Rules and therefore he had been assigned by the ExBo to prepare a draft. The draft was discussed and finalized by the ExBo and finally it was adopted unanimously by the ExBo. The document that was recommended by the ExBo has been distributed for the General Assembly for their information. The ECCE Financial Rules can be found [here](#).

7. UNESCO STEM and Gender Advancement (SAGA) Project

JFS takes the floor to present the UNESCO SAGA Project. JFS says that this project is carried out within the framework of the partnership agreement signed between WCCE and UNESCO natural sciences sector and also, within a new initiative that will be addressed by UNESCO and WFEO, the 2nd Engineering Report. The SAGA project aims to contribute to improving the situation of women and reducing the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields in all countries at all levels of education and research. To achieve these objectives, it determines, measures and assesses sex-disaggregated data, as well as supports the design and implementation of science, technology and innovation (STI) policy instruments that affect gender equality in STEM. Moreover, SAGA aims to analyze how policies affect the gender balance in STEM, undertake inventories of STI gender equality policies, develop new and better indicators to provide tools for evidence-based policy-making, build capacity in Member States for data collection on gender in STEM, and prepare methodological documents to support the collection of statistics. JFS says that one of the main problems that UNESCO has identified is the lack of statistics. Apart from the lack of statistics about primary and secondary education the main problem is the lack of statistics on professional registration. WCCE was contacted by UNESCO in order to compile statistics of professional registration that will be aggregated not only in sex groups but also in age groups. JFS says that according to his opinion that this type of information compiled within ECCE members will be a benchmark that can be used in assessing policies within European Commission as currently there is no specific knowledge and statistics on this topic. Furthermore, Civil Engineering has been identified as a profession to become a pilot project to have a methodology that will be applied to other branches of engineering on the grounds that civil engineering is the most populous profession within engineering. JFS says that basics of the survey that will be circulated among various organizations has been designed and will be presented during the next WCCE GA meeting in Antalya, in October and a fundamental document can be presented in the last quarter of 2018. JFS says that in the end we will be able to have a sound methodology and potential endorsed regional study and ECCE should consider if it will join WCCE and UNESCO in this project. JFS adds that for ECCE there are two options: Either make a contribution to WCCE for the global statistics or contact with UNESCO officials for making a regional document specific with the data collected for the European countries.

AC asks JFS what his opinion is about ECCE's potential involvement in this project.

JFS that this would bring us two options:

- To be able to have this information with a sound methodology and also to be able to update it on a yearly basis to monitor the evolution.
- To be able to collaborate with UNESCO in several potential field offices in other topics. UNESCO field offices make contracts with other organization but first we would need to be visible to these field offices.

AC says that as far as the collection of statistical data is concerned the working group that will carry out this task must contact the national organizations because they will have digital databases regarding their members.

JFS says that the point is that UNESCO doesn't have access to these databases and this is why WCCE has been contacted and now ECCE is also contacted. So, ECCE can be involved by collecting these data from its national members and this way it will become visible to UNESCO and can later be involved in other projects too.

Paul Coughlan asks if they have taken into account the personal information protection.

JFS says that the information that will be shown will be general statistics including only the totals and there will be no raw data shown or any identification.

AC asks if this is possible for ECCE to do it.

Andreas Brandner says that that is should be fairly easy for the Professional organizations to provide us with this data as they already have the databases.

AC says that some European countries do not have chambers and therefore such data might not be easily accessible.

JFS comments that UNESCO has no data whatsoever so the minimum contribution would be useful.

AC asks if this project is funded by UNESCO. He mentions that it will take effort from our side and a working group must be formed if we decide to participate and this effort should be somehow remunerated.

JFS says that there is no funding from UNESCO.

Tugrul Tankut says that this proposal is not very clear. He understands that WCCE invites ECCE to participate in a WCCE-UNESCO project. He says that in this case WCCE President can address a letter to ECCE asking for collaboration and asking them to disseminate the information to the member countries and asking them to provide the required information directly to WCCE so this will not bring further work to ECCE. The other possibility is to invite ECCE to become another partner of the project and in that case UNESCO's approval is essential and that may present some problems. He says that if we follow the first approach then we shouldn't have any problems.

JFS says that we need to identify if there will be an ECCE commitment to participate in this project.

AC says that he thinks it is not easy for ECCE to decide in this moment. He thinks that we must receive further information so that we can better understand what would be the requirements and the commitment for ECCE so that we can mature this topic before taking a final decision. We need a clearer description of what the tasks will be so that we can assess if we are able to undertake them or not. He adds that on the other hand would be very interesting for ECCE to establish a direct contact with UNESCO and to create a relation with UNESCO officials.

JFS replies that establishing a relationship and cooperation with UNESCO is an internal ECCE policy matter that must be addressed. He thinks that it would be difficult for ECCE to get involved with UNESCO while we have two other projects running at the same time. He concludes that his intention at this moment is to just give the information to ECCE.

Tugrul Tankut says that according to his opinion we should wait for a concrete and specific request by WCCE.

Resolution 66.5:

It was decided that ECCE will wait for some further concrete information about what ECCE's involvement and specific requirements would be to be delivered by WCCE before taking a final decision.

8. 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers

Paul Coughlan who is a member of the Steering Committee for the organization of the 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers (2018EYCE) takes the floor to present the work that has been carried out so far regarding this ECCE initiative.

He gives some background information about the conception of the idea and then he outlines the objectives of this initiative. The objectives are the following:

- Raise **awareness in society** of the fundamental role that civil engineers play in improving the living standards of every member of society.
- Showcase **what civil engineers are and what they can do** to European citizens.
- **Raise the prestige of civil engineers** in European society.
- **Raise the visibility and profile** of the civil engineering profession across Europe.

Then he describes how we are planning to achieve those objectives:

- **Proclamation** of the 2018 EYCE to be widely disseminated.
- Preparation of a special **logo**.
- Preparation of a **standard presentation** about civil engineering in Europe.

- **Organization of a series of events related to the civil engineering profession across Europe.**
- **Events** will be organized by our members in our member countries.
- Proclamation, logo and standard presentation will be our **marketing package** which will be sent to our members.
- **Marketing** of the idea through press, media, website, e-journal, etc.
- **Communication of our initiative to the European authorities.**

He continues informing the General Assembly about the organizational work that has been carried out by the Steering Committee for the 2018EYCE which consists by Włodzimierz Szymczak (Acting President, leader), Paul Coughlan (U.K.), Platonas Stylianou (Cyprus), Wolciech Radomski (Poland) and Maria Karanasiou (Gen. Sec.). He announces that the logo for the 2018EYCE has been prepared already and also a draft proclamation and a draft standard presentation have also been prepared which are going to be finalized in the near future. The list of events that will be part of the 2018EYCE is open and will be populated during the course of the year. Once the marketing package consisting of the logo, the proclamation and the standard presentation is ready in the end of October, then the website will be up, there will be an official announcement of the event and it will be also communicated to the European Authorities. He mentions that the opening event will be held on 2nd December 2017, in Nicosia, Cyprus during the 25th General Assembly of Cyprus Association of Civil Engineers. ECCE Vice President/ President Elect will participate in the opening event. The closing event will be held in October 2018, in London during a World Engineering Congress hosted by ICE which will include the events of the 200th ICE Anniversary, the 50th WFEO Anniversary, the Triennial with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers and the 68th ECCE General Meeting.

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

Then, Ingrid Farmer takes the floor to present the ICE 200. As 2018 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Institution of Civil Engineers, to celebrate ICE is running a year of events and activities that show how civil engineering has for over 200 years transformed the way we live. As well as highlighting the exciting range of careers that civil engineering offers.

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

9. ECCE Position Papers new proposals

AC opens the discussion about the assessment of the operation and functions of ECCE over the last two years under the new ECCE Strategy. The topic was discussed also in the ExBo meeting and was brought up out of the need to get ECCE members become more active and contribute to ECCE activities and deliverables. AC says that the purpose of this agenda topic is to have an open discussion and more of a think tank session. He says that his personal opinion is that the Standing Committees that there were in the previous ECCE structure did not produce concrete deliverables but on the other hand in the current situation less people are active. He expresses his concerns about the fact that ECCE members seem to be reluctant to work and contribute to ECCE and he encourages everybody to bring new items on the table and create working groups for new activities and Position Papers. He asks the General Assembly to suggest new topics on which they would like to work and get some outcomes.

Tugrul Tankut says that we changed our strategy 2 years ago and his impression is that the new strategy is more productive than the previous one. In the past we used to have Standing Committees and Task Forces working on various subjects and he can recall that there were many complaints about the productivity of these SCs. Now, he says that the productivity is possibly better; however the outcomes are mostly prepared by individuals in general or by a small number of people. He adds that in general the majority of the members are just listening. He says that the good thing about the SCs was that although most of the people who were attending them were mainly observing there was also a kind of interaction. He says that the two strategies are quite different but he can't say which one is better. Finally, he says that since we are having this discussion about the new strategy trying to evaluate it does it mean that we are not satisfied with this? Then, he closes his intervention saying that maybe it is too early to evaluate it.

Carsten Ahrens takes the floor and says that if ECCE wants to produce Position Papers then we should consider using specialists and experts to contribute on the specific field of each Position Paper.

Nikola Lukovic (Montenegro) takes the floor. He says that it is the first time he participates in an ECCE meeting and he didn't know what to expect. He finds himself confused and he says that maybe he expected too much but in the future meetings he would like to have more discussions on engineering topics.

Andreas Bradner takes the floor. He says that there are two important things that we need to clarify:

- We have to be clear regarding what we want to achieve with the PPs, e.g. improve civil engineering in society in our member countries. We need to have a target and a vision with a long term strategy without losing the sight of the big goal.
- We should clarify whom the PPs should address; the whole society, the civil engineers or the politicians.

He comments that PPs should be short otherwise they won't be read by anyone.

George Demetriou takes the floor to speak about his experience preparing a Position Paper. He says that preparing a Position Paper is hard work. Whatever the ECCE strategy is whether it is preparing Position Papers or running the Standing Committees contribution from the ECCE members is essential. He suggests choosing subjects for PPs on which all member countries can contribute to. Also, he says that we can have committees formed by a number of ECCE members that will be working on a PP. He thinks that is very important to show who we are, what we do and what we want to achieve.

AC says that PPs were meant to be a result of the topics that interest our members and this is why we have requested our members to submit their proposals. The proposals should not be limited to PPs only but they should be for other activities and projects as well.

JFS says that he concurs with a product oriented strategy but the deliverables should not be only PPs. He says that we should be fully aware of what the procedures are in ECCE so that people are comfortable working on PPs or other activities. He mentions also that no UN agency dedicates itself to one kind of deliverables. ECCE can produce different documents with different target groups and with different purpose. The PPs should not be addressed only to decision makers in the European Commission. We are also decision makers regarding our profession in our own countries. Also, PPs could be also best practices in various topics as it is very useful to be able to share common experiences.

Tugrul Tankut takes the floor. He says that his impression is that we are not following a right approach here as our newcomers seem to be confused and not satisfied. We have to explain what ECCE is, what our objectives and our structure is. We should send the Articles of Association and the PP guidelines to the newcomers so that they can understand what we are discussing. He says that a document should be prepared by the ExBo introducing a basic concept about the history of our strategy so that everyone can follow the discussions.

AC says that he shares almost all the comments that have been heard. He thinks that what is essential is getting not only the ExBo but all our members involved and producing work during the time between the two General Meetings. He says that there are many topics currently that are important and of interest to civil engineers. The European Commission introduces changes and new legislation on a number of fields that affect deeply our profession such as in higher education, environment, waste management, etc. on which we could get involved and produce positions. AC mentions also the fact the European Commission has been focusing on the energy efficiency of buildings and investing money on it but it hasn't focused on the structural efficiency of the buildings which are renovated for energy efficiency purposes. He says that upgrading the energy efficiency of a building without looking at its structural stability and condition is not correct because it could be a waste of money in cases where the structure is not sound. He says that especially in the seismic areas of Europe a structural assessment of the building should be imperative before the energy efficiency upgrade and he thinks that the European Commission should consider this. He suggests that this could be one topic on which ECCE could prepare a Position Paper for example. He concludes saying that the countries that are interested in working on a specific topic could create a working group and submit a proposal for a PP or another project.

Platonas Stylianou takes the floor. He says that since in 2018 we will have the European Year of Civil Engineers maybe ECCE could come back to its original idea producing books or booklets. We could produce a booklet regarding the history of civil engineering to distribute it to our members, to the Universities, to big associations, etc. His second idea is the same that was mentioned by AC earlier regarding the structural upgrade of buildings. He says that the energy upgrade of a building is very important but the safety of a building should be the first priority and it shouldn't be underestimated. So, he thinks that preparing a PP on this topic is a good idea.

Vija Geme takes the floor. She says that some more time is needed in order for the members to think about new ideas and discuss them in their national organization and they could send their proposals in one month time. It is necessary for them to read the papers first in order for them to be ready to discuss.

AC says that at the moment we are not discussing whether to implement the one system or the other as it is not mature enough but we are trying to mobilize our members to get more involved.

George Demetriou says that we cannot enforce anything to our members but we can ask them to contribute for example to the history of civil engineering in each country.

Gorazd Humar takes the floor. He says that he agrees and disagrees with the opinion expressed by Tugrul Tankut. His opinion is that we should not limit the ECCE work only to preparing PPs as it is not our task to prepare PPs exclusively. The production of PPs is not a collective work but he thinks that ECCE needs more collective work. He says that it is not comparable to produce a PP and to produce collective work, these are two different things and we should separate them.

Andreas Brandner takes the floor. He says that indeed collective work is needed. A collective work would be for ECCE to assess where we want to be as Civil Engineers in the next 5, 10 and 20 years. He believes that we need to look at the future and not only to our past. Although the past is our foundation we need to look at the future. This work wouldn't be a PP but more of a vision/roadmap of ECCE for the future which we can assess each year and check how far we have gone.

Tugrul Tankut says that in 2012, a committee was established which prepared a report on restructuring the Standing Committees system. He says that if we are looking for a roadmap then this report might be helpful.

AC closes this discussion encouraging the ECCE members to think about the topics that they would like to work on and send their proposals. He says that the situation will be evaluated again and will be discussed again in the next ExBo meetings.

10. Forthcoming ECCE meetings

The 67th ECCE General Meeting is going to be held on 30 May – 2 June 2018, in Tallinn, the capital city of Estonia. Andres Piirsalu takes the floor and delivers a presentation regarding the 67th ECCE General Meeting. The presentation can be found [here](#).

AC says that the forthcoming ECCE General Meeting that have been planned are the following:

- Spring 2018: 67th ECCE GAM in Tallinn, Estonia
- Autumn 2018: 68th ECCE GAM in London, U.K.
- Autumn 2019: 70th ECCE GAM in Sofia, Bulgaria

We still don't have a location for our spring 2019 69th ECCE General Meeting. He requests ECCE Members to send their proposals for this meeting.

11. ECCE Presidency issue until the end of 2018

AC opens the discussion about the topic of the ECCE Presidency. He reminds the participants that the topic has been discussed also in our previous meeting in Antalya and makes a short brief of the events that led us to the current situation. He mentions that soon after the elections that were held in Athens in October 2016 when Massimo Mariani took over the ECCE Presidency he sent a letter asking for a temporary absence from his role as President due to his deep and very demanding involvement in the emergency situation the Italy was in due to the earthquakes that hit it. The ExBo considered his absence reasonable for a few months until the next General Assembly. Now, it is one year since Massimo Mariani became ECCE President but he still is not able to assume his duties as President. After many efforts to communicate with him and clarify the situation the ExBo decided to write to CNI which is the organization that Massimo Mariani is representing in ECCE and ask for their assistance with this matter. CNI President sent us a typical reply that he has passed the letter to Massimo Mariani and he will contact us directly to explain to us the situation. AC says that so far we haven't received any correspondence and official position regarding this issue from Massimo Mariani. He informs the General Assembly that this topic has been discussed thoroughly in the ECCE ExBo which recommends that Włodzimierz Szymczak shall continue his role as ECCE Acting President until the end of this term of office (October 2018). He says that Włodzimierz Szymczak has sent a letter regarding this proposal which is annexed below:

Dear ECCE Members,

As you know, we had and still have a problem with our President Massimo Mariani, who practically disappeared from life of the European Council of Civil Engineers since the beginning of this year. An organization like ECCE

obviously cannot operate without a President that's why we, as the ExBo, took over a dozen or so attempts to make direct contact with Massimo to clarify the situation, but without any success. Finally, I wrote a letter to CNI President with the request for his position on this matter. In the response he sent us back to Massimo, trying to keep himself out of the issue.

The ExBo tried to deal with this problem by appointing me to the position of Acting President. This decision was ratified and extended until our 66th GA by 65th ECCE GA in Antalya.

What we have now?

- 1. President Massimo Mariani is still outside the ECCE.*
- 2. He does not respond to any attempts to establish contact with him by ExBo.*
- 3. We are no longer counting on the return of the President of ECCE to perform his duties.*
- 4. CNI and its President are standing next to this problem and do not intend to join in its solution.*
- 5. ECCE has another year of hard work ahead and needs inner peace and concentration on tasks.*
- 6. The temporary solution, which runs until October 2018, must be adopted by the 66th General Assembly of the ECCE in Vienna.*

How can we solve this difficult situation?

The ECCE ExBo, after a comprehensive discussion and consideration of possible options, decided to recommend the GA of ECCE to continue my Acting President mission until the next election, which will take place in October 2018 in London.

In the opinion of ExBo, this solution is, in the present situation, the best one for our organization.

I declare, that in case of acceptance of this proposal by the GA of ECCE, I agree to continue my mission of Acting President until the next election.

With my best regards,

*Włodzimierz Szymczak
Acting President of the ECCE*

Following the announcement and the confirmation of Włodzimierz Szymczak's willingness to carry on his role as Acting President of ECCE, AC asks the General Assembly to vote in order to accept the suggested solution.

Resolution 66.6:

The ECCE General Assembly unanimously accepts that Włodzimierz Szymczak will continue his role as ECCE Acting President until the next ECCE elections in October 2018.

12. Other issues

Gorazd Humar takes the floor. He reminds the General Assembly about the two books that were published by ECCE; the "Civil Engineering Heritage in Europe" book (380 pages) and the "Footbridges – small is beautiful" book (414 pages) which were an ECCE collective work. He says that last month he attended the World Congress "Footbridge 2017" in Berlin. He prepared an article for this congress together with Professor Enzo Siviero and after his presentation he received a lot of requests for the book, but it is sold out. He says that among these requests he received also a request from a University asking him if ECCE would allow them to use the digital copy of the book for educational purposes because they consider it very important. He says that he is thinking if ECCE would consider publishing the digital copies of the two books on the ECCE website and either sell them for a small price of 5-8 Euros or publish them with free access to the public as part of ECCE's contribution to the 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers. He says that these books are intellectual property of ECCE and only ECCE should decide about the copyrights of the books. He says that there are two copies of the books, the high resolution one and the low resolution one. He concludes that this is his proposal and would like to hear what the Chairman and the General Assembly think about it.

AC says that he agrees with the proposal expressed by Gorazd Humar and he asks the General Assembly if they have any objection on this.

Resolution 66.7:

The ECCE General Assembly unanimously decided to publish the two ECCE books "Civil Engineering Heritage in Europe" and the "Footbridges – small is beautiful" on the ECCE website with free access to everyone as a contribution of ECCE to the civil engineering community on the occasion of the 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers.

13. Official close of the 66th ECCE General Meeting

The 66th ECCE General Meeting is officially closed by the ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Aris Chatzidakis.

Minutes prepared by: Maria Karanasiou
ECCE General Secretary