



Association for European Transport

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AET Newsletter No 29

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A message from Emy Apostolopoulou, member of AET Board

“Dear colleagues,

Since the beginning of 2011, AET Board has met twice and AET Council once to discuss the Association’s issues of importance to the Association, as well as future plans. Programme Committees have already met and selected the abstracts of papers to be presented at ETC 2011. In this issue of your Newsletter, you can read all about AET Board and Council news (pp. 6-8), ETC Programme Committees (pp. 2-4), Ambassadors’ news (pp.4-5, 8) and events (pp. 5-6). Don’t forget to send any news you feel would be of interest to a wider European audience to epostolopoulou@ametro.gr to be published in the next issues of AET Newsletter, for which a new look will be adopted ”

AET Views

A message by Peter Snelson, Chair of AET Board



Dear Colleagues and friends,

Hello and welcome to the first Quarterly Newsletter for 2011. This is an important year for the Association with the Board and Council looking at a number of key issues relating to the Association and the European Transport Conference, which I mentioned in the last newsletter for 2010. I would now like to give you a little more detail of what we have been doing. The first issue is a vision of AET, where we are now and where do we want to be in 10 years time.

- The **Association for European Transport (AET)** is the leading European organisation for transport professionals. AET promotes networking and the exchange of ideas, information and opportunities amongst its members through conferences, special interest groups and the members' website. AET's membership currently comprises over 300 corporate and individual members, based in over 35 countries. AET is committed to the development of young professionals in the transport industry and in academic fields. **The European Transport Conference (ETC)** is the key annual event held in Europe for transport planning professionals and is the flagship of the Association for European Transport. It attracts some 400 delegates from more than 30 countries.

This is something that has not been done since the original objectives were written, when the Association was constituted, in 1998. The Board has put forward to Council a draft of this vision and the Council has formed a working group who are looking in depth at these key questions. There is no doubt that we need to move the Association forward as both it, and its members, have changed considerably over the last 13 years.

The second key issue is ETC and how this is organised and what it should be in the future. At the last conference in the Netherlands we asked Professor Tony May to lead a group to review the conference and give an independent view of how it worked and what it delivered. This report has been taken forward by the Board and a new 5 year plan for ETC had been drafted and discussed with the Council. A number of the recommendations in this plan have already been implemented for the coming ETC11 in Glasgow. The introduction of 'Panel Sessions' within the conference, the Plenary session on Monday will be an invited Panel Discussion on a hot topic across Europe, and the majority of programme committees have introduced a panel session into their streams. The aim to enable delegates to enter into open discussions with experts in their field and debate the subject as opposed to listening to a presentation and having limited time to discuss the topic.

We have introduced a 'mentoring' system into the sessions within ETC, each session will have a mentor who is responsible for reviewing the papers and assuring their quality before the conference. This is the first step to a possible peer review process for academic papers which has been discussed for a number of years.

I will keep you informed of the progress, especially of the vision of the Association in the coming newsletters, which by the way, will also be going through a face lift in the near future

Pete

European Transport Conference Agenda

ETC 2011 – Programme Committee Meetings

There are currently eleven Programme Committees for ETC. All Programme Committees have already met and selected the abstracts of papers to be presented at ETC 2011, Glasgow, Scotland. The type of meetings that Programme Committees have had ranges from virtual (Transport and Tourism Programme Committee) to extended meetings combined with a technical visit (Local Public Transport Committee). In the following, you can read an announcement from the Freight and Logistics Programme Committee on the topics to be presented at this year's Conference, as well as a report on the meeting and technical visit of the Local Public Transport Committee.

Announcement from the "Freight and Logistics" Programme Committee by Programme Committee Chair, Lori Tavasszy

This year's conference will have a full 3 day stream of freight and logistics presentations and discussions. Notable topics are:

- City logistics: latest insights in governance approaches for urban distribution systems and different public-private business models.

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- Assessment of European freight transport policy measures related to pricing and regulation.
- Freight modelling, with an emphasis on novel practices in national models and on innovative freight models that incorporate logistics principles.
- Emerging approaches in collaborative and multimodal transport management and their role in improving the environmental performance of freight transport.

We look forward to a great conference!

Programme Committee Meeting and Technical Visit in Nantes

by Iain Macbriar, Chair of the “Local Public Transport” Programme Committee, with pictures by Broos Baanders

In February and March of each year, ETC’s Programme Committees meet to review the abstracts that have been submitted to them. Of the committees, the Local Public Transport committee has a long tradition of combining the meeting with a technical visit, and arranging the meeting for a Thursday and Friday, so as to allow the opportunity for a longer informal stay in the host city. Seeing how other cities organise their public transport is tremendously important. I suppose that it should be referred to as “sharing best practice”, but often it’s about copying other people’s good ideas (and sometimes about avoiding their mistakes).

This year, we met in Nantes, in western France, a city which installed the first of the new French tramways back in 1985, and which has been gradually expanding its tramway network ever since. The latest addition, line 4, actually takes the form of a high-quality busway designed to match the standards of the tram lines.



The Thursday was taken up with the business meeting. We agreed that we would use our last two sessions at the Conference for another technical visit, to the Glasgow Subway (the third-oldest metro system in the world, after London and Budapest). Numbers for this will be limited, so early booking is recommended.

The normal way of working is that we go through each of the abstracts in some detail, including notes which have been sent in by committee members who are unable to be with us in person. In our case this gives 14 reviews of each abstract. The Association’s briefing note asks each of us to give a score to the abstract, ranging from 5 (excellent) down to 1, on the basis of the content, its relevance to the published themes of the Conference and of the Local Public Transport stream. We also try to encourage papers from emerging countries and from young authors, and we’re very keen to hear about projects that will have been completed by the time of the Conference – so we look suspiciously at the “Work in Progress” tick-box.

Not only do we have to choose a limited number of papers from the wide range of abstracts, we then have to group these so as to fit the Conference sessions, and then appoint one of us to act as the ‘topic leader’ for that session, to mentor young or new speakers and to ensure that older (and theoretically more-experienced) authors get their papers in on time (and turn up to present them).

The meeting took place in the offices of Nantes Métropole, the local government body for the Greater Nantes area, to whom we should express our thanks, particularly to Sébastien Rabuel.

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When he moved from Paris last year, he made a throwaway remark about the committee meeting in Nantes, but probably didn't expect us to turn up quite so soon.

So much for the business meeting. Some of the rest that follows may sound as if it's AET's version of the Rough Guide, or sponsored by the local Tourist Office (but it isn't). We had lunch in the former LU biscuit factory (of the famous Petit Beurre), now converted into an arts centre – definitely recommended. In the evening, our hosts pointed us towards La Cigale, in Place Greslin. If you ever go to Nantes, go to this brasserie. It originally opened in 1895, and has now been registered as a Historic Monument. A wonderful Belle Epoque café – and dinner was pretty good too! The name refers to the famous fable by La Fontaine, La Cigale et la Fourmi (the Cricket and the Ant, 1678).



On the Friday, Sébastien gave us an excellent presentation of the current state of public transport in Nantes, and their current and future plans. Their next phase of development involves improving a set of bus routes under the ChronoBus brand. Meanwhile, the Pays de la Loire Region is investing in a tram-train project which will connect Clisson and Chateaubriand to Nantes (although, unlike in other tram-train projects, the vehicles won't run off the railway and onto the city's tramway lines).



A trip on the Busway followed, with all being duly impressed by the standard of the construction, and by the conurbation's commitment to public transport. An example of this is the fact that part of the route uses one half of a former dual carriageway. We're all familiar with converting former rail alignments into tramways and busways, but converting roads was a new one on most of us.

Broos Baanders had travelled to the meeting by car – but that does mean that he was able to bring his bike (very Dutch). He found cycling very easy in Nantes, being able to reach most places in the city in a much shorter time than would be possible by car or public transport. The few slopes were never too steep and car drivers were quite respectful of cyclists.

Those of us who stayed on for the Saturday to do some 'ordinary' sight-seeing were rewarded by a huge 'braderie' (market), with 800 stalls, that occupied most of the city centre (and forced tramway lines 2 and 3 to operate in two halves). In the afternoon, Broos Baanders and I enjoyed a technical visit of a different sort, to see how Muscadet (the local wine) is produced, at Domaines Vinet in La Haye Fouassière (the wine society to which I belong in England is one of their clients).

And we were further rewarded by seeing one of the tram-trains on test at the local level crossing. So we pursued it to Clisson, and managed some more photos of it returning to Nantes.



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All-in-all, a rewarding few days, both in terms of AET business and the opportunity to see how one of the French cities tackles its public transport. Thanks are due again to Sébastien Rabuel and his colleagues at Nantes Métropole for their efficient hosting of our meeting.

For a clearer view of the pictures from the LPT Committee meeting visit www.aetransport.org/....

AET-Net News

ETC excellent arena for EU FP project interaction with stakeholders and research community

by Nils Fearnley



Photo:
Svein Erik Dahl/Samfoto

As AET Ambassador for Norway and coordinator of a FP7 project called "Optic" (Optimal policies for transport in combination), I have had focus on the European Transport Conference as an arena for dissemination and interaction with the European transport community. Right from the planning of the EU project I have interacted with ETC organizers, who willingly declared that project dissemination and stakeholder activities could be integrated with the Conference. (This probably helped us get the project in the first place, since impact is among the key criteria for EU funding.)

Hence, about a year ago, our project developed ideas and plans for a separate stream on "Policy making and policy packaging" during ETC 2010. It consisted of two sessions where we had the opportunity to present findings and preliminary conclusions to a very active and competent audience. The feedback received has impacted on the future course of the project. ETC provided us with an infrastructure for making real impact through dissemination and testing of project findings and their relevance. Thanks to Christine, who was helpful throughout, we were able to organise our management meetings in a separate meeting room during the conference.

Cooperation between the Optic project and the ETC has resulted in mutual benefits: In addition to the already mentioned advantages for the project, a dozen plus delegates signed up to the conference as a result of the cooperation, and a wide range of delegates enjoyed the stream and signed up for future information from our project.

I can, therefore, and without reservations, recommend for other and future EU project consortia to make use of the opportunity, which ETC offers, to boost their dissemination activities. I also think this is one way for ETC to attract good quality research papers and maintain support for ETC in general. For ETC it is, in my view, imperative to offer this kind of added value to both delegates and the research community.¹

You can learn more about the Optic project on optic.toi.no/

Nils Fearnley
AET Ambassador to Norway
naf@toi.no

¹ I may take this opportunity to add that, in my opinion, ETC should explicitly offer speakers the opportunity to submit papers for review and potential publication in refereed journals and proceedings. Academics are increasingly measured by publication pints earned. The opportunity to publish would greatly increase ETC's attraction to the European research community.

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European Transport Events

18-20 May, Belgium (Antwerp)

EURO-NECTAR Conference 18-20 May 2011. Visit <http://www.ua.ac.be/nectar2011> "Smart Networks-Smooth Transport-Smiling People". To find the abstract submission page for the EURO-NECTAR Conference, which will be held in Antwerp (18-20 May 2011). The Registration form, as well as further information about the program and practical details, will be available later on. Enquiries should be directed to the local organizers, email: nectar2011@ua.ac.be

23-27 May, Belgium (Antwerp)

Antwerp Rail School. Further information: <http://www.antwerprailschool2011.org>

25-26 May, Poland (Warsaw)

4th Polish ITS Congress. It is scheduled for 25-26/05/2011 in Warsaw. Further information can be found here: http://www.pkits.pl/index_eng.php

6-9 June, France (Lyon)

8th ITS European Congress, "Intelligent Mobility: ITS for sustainable transport of persons and goods in urban regions" and Exhibition on Intelligent Transport Systems and Services will take place in Lyon, France, 6-9 June 2011. The organisation of this major 2011 event is coordinated by ERTICO - ITS EUROPE, together with the active participation of the European Commission, the Grand Lyon, the Rhône-Alpes Region, the Lyon Urban Truck and Bus Cluster, the French Ministry of Transport (MEEDDM), ITS France and the French organisations active within ERTICO - ITS EUROPE. The Congress theme is geared towards 'Intelligent Mobility – ITS for sustainable transport of persons and goods in urban regions'. For further details on the 8th European Congress & Exhibition on ITS, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Valérie Mindlin v.mindlin@mail.ertico.com or visit the Congress website at www.itsineurope.com.

14-17 June, Greece (Athens)

The 1st International Conference on Access Management will be held in Athens, Greece, from Tuesday, June 14th to Friday June 17th 2011. The Conference is organized by the Hellenic Association of Rural and Surveying Engineers (HARSE) in Cooperation with the Access Management Committee of the Transportation Research Board, The Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG), the Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communication and will draw together engineers, architects, planners, consultants, developers and academics from around the world and across the fields of highway planning, engineering and design; urban and regional planning; site development; and data acquisition and management. A full-day Workshop on Access Management techniques is foreseen for Tuesday, June 14, 2011. For more information you can visit www.accessmanagement2011.gr

20-21 June, Portugal (Porto)

"MyLAND, your Land" International Symposium on Mobility, Land Use and Environmental Impacts changing times holding unchanging behaviors, June, 20 -21, 2011, Porto (Portugal). The conference is organized by a joint committee from several universities and tries to promote the exchange of results and ideas between participants on the topics of mobility, land use and environmental impacts. More information available at <http://portomobility2011.com>

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31 August/ 1 September 2011, Ireland (Cork)

Irish Transport Research Network 2011. ITRN2011 is an opportunity for industry professionals & academia to promote, share & discuss issues and developments in the field of transportation. Last year's conference in University College Dublin was most successful and we had very positive feedback. For updates & information on ITRN2011 visit www.itrn.ie or email aoife.foley@ucc.ie

6 to 9 September 2011, Poland (Poznan)

14th Meeting of the EURO Working Group on Transportation, Website: <http://www.ewgt2011.put.poznan.pl>, Contact name: Hanna Sawicka. This event will be a scientific meeting of transportation / logistics and operations research specialists from all over Europe and other continents. It will be hosted by Poznan University of Technology and officially sponsored by EWGT.

AET Internal Affairs

News from AET Board and AET Council

AET Board has met twice during this period. The 41st Board meeting, the first virtual Board meeting (in the form of a telephone Conference), took place on the 11th of January. The 42nd AET Board meeting took place on the 3rd of March 2011, in the premises of Attiko Metro S.A. in Athens.



AET Board 2011: Standing, from the left, Board members Neil Pauley, Thomas Friderich, Marc Ellenberg, Emy Apostolopoulou, David Tucker, Hans Jeekel. Sitting: Rachel Risely (AET Council Chair), Peter Snelson (AET Board Chair)

AET Board membership, the new Business Plan and Budget as well as the Marketing Plan were discussed among other issues.

David Tucker, AET Board Secretary, who joined the Board as an emergency measure to deal with the Contracts, announced that he plans to step down after the General Assembly in October 2011. David has done a remarkable job in updating the Contracts to reflect the current status and needs of the Association. It will be hard to replace him! Thank you David!

The next AET Board meeting will be held in Tournon d' Agenais, France, on the 17th of June 2011.

News from AET Council

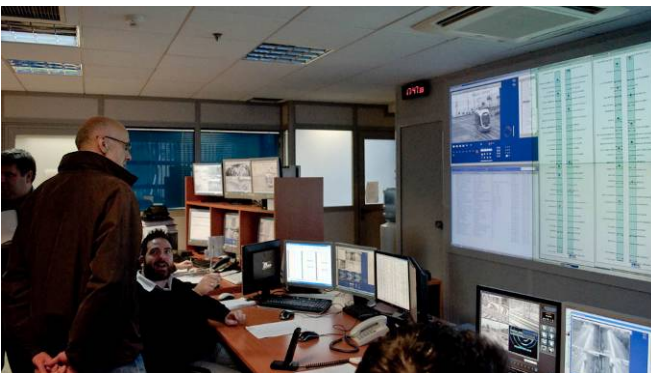
The 30th AET Council meeting was also held in Athens, on the 4th of March 2011, in the premises of the Technical Chamber of Greece. A presentation about the new metro extensions was given by Dr. G. Leoutsakos, Deputy Engineering Manager, Attiko Metro S.A., before the start of the meeting.

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The Business Plan and Budget, a well as the Marketing Plan were approved by Council, following a lengthy discussion and comments. A Council working group consisting of Conall MacAongusa (Chair), Adnan Rahman, Colin Chick, Michael Bach and Hans Jeekel from AET Board, will meet to clarify the vision of the Association and report before the next AET Board meeting. To see more pictures from the Council meeting in Athens, visit www.aetransport.org/....

The hosts of the meetings, AET Council member Eleni Gioti and AET Board member Emy Apostolopoulou had also organized a technical visit to the Athens Tram organization and a walk to the new pedestrianized Dionissiou Areopagitou str.



Technical visit to the Athens Tram Control Center (left) and Depot (right), on the 4th of March 2011

To see more pictures from the technical visit to the Athens Tram organisation visit www.aetransport.org/.....

A rich social programme, was also organized, which included a informal meeting with Mr Bill Halkias and Dr M.Karlaftis, Chair and Vice Chair of the Hellenic Institute of Transport Engineers, re well as a visit and dinner at the new Acropolis Museum. The Museum, which opened in 2009, spacious, lies at the foot of the Acropolis and has already attracted over two million visitors. It is winner (of the Globe Category) of the UK travel trade's most prestigious annual tourism project award. For more information on the new Acropolis Museum, you can visit www.newacropolismuseum.gr/eng

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AET Board and Council members and friends having dinner at the Acropolis museum

To see more pictures from the dinner at the Acropolis museum, visit [www.aetransport.org/...](http://www.aetransport.org/)

AET Ambassadors 2010-2011

There are two vacancies in the AET Ambassadors' team, as Adam Giszczak (AET Ambassador for Poland), and Nils Fearnley (AET Ambassador for Norway) will not be able to participate to the AET Ambassadors' team from now on. Adam and Nils, thank you both for your efforts!

AET Important Dates: April-June 2011

April 2011

- Selection of Programme Committee members: Late April is the deadline for individual members to put themselves forward / organisational members to designate candidates for selection as a PC member for the next PC cycle (ETC 2012).

May 2011

- Remember to pay AET membership fees! Membership fees are the main source of income for the Association. Paying your membership fees, empowers the Association to: offer you a Conference of even better quality, improve networking opportunities and increase benefits for you!

June 2011

- 43rd AET Board meeting 17/6/ 2011, Tournon d' Agenais, France

You can send your news or views to be included in AET Newsletter No 30, to eapostolopoulou@ametro.gr, until 20/7/2011

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