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## Call for Candidates: elections to the AET Council

15 August is the deadline for members of the Association to submit their candidate form and text if they wish to stand for election to the Council of the Association. The Council has up to 24 members who are either Individual Members of the Association or the representative of an Organisation Member.

The Council's main role is to represent the membership in overseeing the direction of development of the Association and to support the Board in implementing the Association's plans and objectives.

The Council meets twice a year, usually in November and March – the next planned meetings are Cambridge, UK on 22 November 2019 and 6 March 2020 in Budapest, HU.

The election results will be announced during the General Assembly of the Association, to be held at 1300 hours on Thursday 10 October 2019 in Dublin Castle, IE.

If you would like further details or need a new copy of the Call for Candidates, please contact Sally Scarlett: [sally.scarlett@aetransport.org](mailto:sally.scarlett@aetransport.org)

## Implementing the AET vision in 5 initiatives

by Gisela Gräfin von Schlieffen

The Association for European Transport (AET) is an active community steadily on the way to offer the best forum for our members. In the centre of our work is the organisation of our annual European Transport Conference (ETC). Over the years the AET has evolved and changed to stay relevant to the transport professionals and academic community.

Building on over 40 years of amazing voluntary effort, AET and ETC have changed with the times to reflect the needs of not only the profession but global thinking about transport, what it does, and what it should be doing in the future.

Seven years ago the AET general assembly agreed on the 2020 Vision and Action Plan. Last year, a team of Board and Council Members started to evaluate the success of that paper and decided to reread the existing ideas.

The main result was that the vision is still fine to lead AET into the future. We agreed that we need additional effort to implement it, based on a more profiled statement:

**“AET will contribute to and shape the debate connecting transport policy, practice and research at the European level to increase effectiveness and assist to shorten the time to market for new ideas.”**

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## What to expect from ETC 2019

The 47th European Transport Conference will be held for the second year in Dublin, on October 9-11, 2019, in the beautiful frame of the Dublin Castle, sponsored by the Irish Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport.

Last year at ETC 2018, we were extremely pleased to have Shane Ross, Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport who welcomed delegates to the Conference, and Prof. Balazs, the European Coordinator for the TEN-T North Sea-Mediterranean Corridor, who gave the opening plenary. Therefore, with the aim to strengthen the relationships with the European Commission further, this year the conference is planned to be opened by a senior official from EC who would establish the agenda for the following days of technical presentations and discussion on supranational, national and local policy issues, as well as best practice and research findings across a broad spectrum of transport topics. Some of the key themes will be:

- ◆ Autonomous Vehicles
- ◆ Aviation
- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ Big Data

Moreover, the conference will host some sessions on System Dynamics models applied to Transport, organised jointly by the ETC Programme Committee on Transport Models and the System Dynamics Society, Special Interest Group in Transportation. Students and junior practitioners from all over Europe will find a unique opportunity for discussion in the sessions organised by the Young Researchers' and Practitioners' Forum.

On day 2 of the conference, Ms. Maive Rute, Deputy Director-General responsible for transport research at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the Commission, will give a keynote address, focusing on the key findings of the JRC Flagship Report on the Future of Road Transport. In fact, in light of the new AET Vision, the conference is increasingly becoming a place where research communities and professionals from all over Europe can find room to present new ideas, discuss relevant issues related to all modes of transport and to discuss new ideas and prospects for the future of (global and local) mobility.

## A tribute to Professor John Polak

The Association was sad to hear of the recent untimely death of Professor John Polak, who had been very involved with the Association, the European Transport Conference and its previous incarnation as the PTRC Summer Annual Meeting. John was a member, and then Chair, of the Transportation Planning Methods Programme Committee and was a member of the AET Council from 1999 to 2003.

## A new feature of ETC 2019 – System Dynamics

Peter Davidson, Chair of the Transport Models Programme Committee, was approached by the System Dynamics Society Special Interest Group in Transportation with a suggestion to support a seminar at ETC on System Dynamics. The ETC Coordination Committee was happy to embrace this offer and launched a Call for Papers, asking for abstracts which demonstrated the success of system dynamics in transport related research.

System Dynamics is defined as a computer-aided approach to policy analysis and design. It applies to dynamic problems arising in complex social, managerial, economic, or ecological systems - literally any dynamic systems characterised by interdependence, mutual interaction, information feedback, and circular causality.

Dr Gillian Harrison of ITS, University of Leeds, has coordinated the selection of abstracts and she and her colleagues have produced a one-day programme to be held on the first day of ETC 2019. AET is pleased that this cooperation has additionally involved Professor Simon Shepherd (University of Leeds) and Professor Enzo Bivona (University of Palermo), who co-chair the System Dynamics Society Transportation Special Interest Group.

This cooperation with other research groups and societies dealing with transport matters and often from different backgrounds, is part of AET's commitment to open up the Conference to different influences. The Association will continue to promote such cooperation and will make available rooms during ETC for groups to hold working meetings and seminars. The Systems Dynamics initiative has been hosted by the Transport Models Programme Committee and other committees will be encouraged to get involved in a similar way.

John was widely known and respected not only within the academic sector but also across the public and private sectors, internationally. He was a member of the Mayor of London's Smart London Board, a member of the Department for Transport's Strategic Roads Reform Expert Group and a member of the British Standards Institute Advisory Committee on Smart Cities Standards.

He was a past President of the International Association for Travel Behaviour Research and a member of many Transportation Research Board's Committees. He served on the Editorial Advisory Boards of leading international journals in Transport and was an Honorary Professor of Intelligent Transport Systems at South East University in Nanjing, China.

# AET – Implementing the vision in 5 initiatives

by Gisela Gräfin von Schlieffen

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New to the formulation of the vision is the intention to increase effectiveness and to shorten the time to market for new ideas – we do it already, but would like to put more emphasis on putting it into the vision.

In the next step, we have discussed the priorities to achieve the AET Long Term Vision. To that effect we stated in our mission:

**“Reinforce the identity of AET (and ETC) as “the meeting place” for European transport policy makers, researchers and practitioners”.**

We set out to implement it with five key initiatives, carried out by our members, Council and Board together.

We start marketing initiatives both regarding participation at the ETC 2019 in Dublin as well as engaging more people to share their ideas using the AET network.

**Watch out for that or take an active role in it!**



John moved from the University of Oxford Transport Studies Unit to Imperial College where he established the Urban Systems Laboratory in 2016 to harness Imperial's outstanding expertise in urban infrastructure, systems and services to facilitate collaboration and cross-disciplinary working, provide training and thought leadership and to enhance the application and practical impact of the research.

John could be a challenging colleague but his commitment to his students, the research community and the profession is not in doubt.

- 1 Define the USP (unique selling point: what differentiates us from the competitors) of our association and conference:** we need to be clear about our USP in times of diminishing conference attendances elsewhere. The ETC has a forward looking, inspiring and friendly but professional atmosphere where you can meet peer-to-peer as well as experts on every level. Presentations might be followed up with the publication of papers, and all AET members have the chance to influence both AET and the ETC conference!
- 2 Expand and widen our membership base:** we keep a truly European focus concentrating on delivering the services to all European countries, integrate emerging topics for metropolitan areas and large cities also considering a sustainable land-use and travel patterns. We cordially invite every expert interested from any country, and will especially reach out to female experts, young professionals and decision makers. If you know someone who is interested or interesting, please let us know!
- 3 Financial burden sharing:** we heartily welcome new individual and institutional members, and we liaise with like-minded organisations to commonly achieve our goals. Do you have a recommendation for us? Please take an active role and contact us!
- 4 Improve our agility in responding to a fast-changing mobility market and the policy context:** already five years ago we had the first presentations on autonomous vehicles. As these vehicle require supporting infrastructure and services, today a special consideration is given to new target groups for the conference: digital experts, urban planners, architects and designers. New topics are the sustainable mobility aspects beyond transport, health aspects and housing in relation to mobility. Are you interested in shaping them? Please join us to meet fellow researchers, policy makers and practitioners.
- 5 Shorten the time to market for new ideas in the transport and mobility sector:** for example, in 2014 we had our first session on cable-cars; every year since we bring experts together, the group grows as the topic grows in the world.



# London's AET Ambassadors meeting

On 17th and 18th May, the first AET ambassadors meeting took place at the University of Westminster in London. AET ambassadors from the UK, Italy, Sweden, Poland, Norway, Austria, and Germany had the unique chance to get together and discuss their present and future role in promoting AET in his/her country.

Following the welcome presentation from Enrica Papa, Sally Scarlett introduced AET activities and the ETC Conference and Prof. Pierluigi Coppola presented the AET Ambassadors' network. Ambassadors had then the possibility to present themselves and their motivation in joining the network.

The meeting was then centred on:

- (i) Discussing opportunities for making progress on the Ambassadors' Network
- (ii) Handling the main challenges in making the network grow
- (iii) Ideas and actions to improve the network

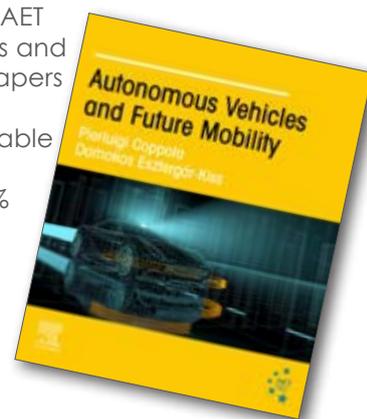
The group agreed with enthusiasm on some key actions for the short term: to identify new AET ambassadors, particularly for those countries that are not yet covered, to set up a document sharing system. It was also decided to organize an AET ambassador session in the next ETC 2019 conference in Dublin. In the medium and long term, the critical action consists of defining an action plan following the London meeting.



## AET Publications

The first book of the Elsevier AET series "Autonomous Vehicles and Future Mobility" including papers selected from ETC 2017 has been published and is available on line. AET members are eligible for a discount of 30% off the retail list price.

[www.elsevier.com/books/autonomous-vehicles-and-future-mobility/coppola/978-0-12-817696-2](http://www.elsevier.com/books/autonomous-vehicles-and-future-mobility/coppola/978-0-12-817696-2)



## Introducing the AET Ambassador for UK: Mengqiu (Matthew) Cao

Dr Mengqiu (Matthew) Cao (FRGS, MCIHT, MTPS, MTCPA, MTSUG) is a Senior Lecturer in Transport and Urban Planning at the School of Architecture and Cities, University of Westminster (UoW). He mainly teaches on the MSc Transport Planning and Management. He was awarded his PhD from the Bartlett School of Planning, University College London (UCL). He has worked in both academia and industry, specialising in an interdisciplinary research field, which is primarily a mixture of transport analysis and urban planning. In addition, he has also worked with public authorities and international funding organisations. His recent co-authored book entitled Transport Economics Matters: Applying Economic Principles to Transportation in Great Britain has just been published.

Outside of work, he has played the trumpet for around 17 years, including as principal trumpet in orchestras and bands. He relaxes by watching stage musicals (two of his favourites being The Phantom of the Opera and War Horse), exploring other countries and cultures, and reading.

In March 2019, he took over the position as the UK Ambassador for the AET, and is now responsible for enlarging the AET community, as well as developing connections with other research and practitioner groups in the UK.

The Association for European Transport currently comprises over 200 corporate and individual members, based in over 35 countries. It was formed in 1998 to develop a network of transport professionals across Europe.

To find out more about becoming a member of the Association for European Transport, please contact Sally Scarlett by email on [sally.scarlett@aetransport.org](mailto:sally.scarlett@aetransport.org) or visit our website [www.aetransport.org](http://www.aetransport.org)