



European Road Infrastructure Congress



in partnership
with



18th - 20th October 2016
Leeds

Venue: Leeds, Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds

Dates: 18-20 October 2016

The European Union Road Federation, in partnership with the Road Safety Markings Association, is pleased to announce the 1st edition of the European Road Infrastructure Congress.

Spanning three days at the end of October 2016, the ERF European Road Infrastructure Congress will bring together policymakers, road authorities, academics, research laboratories and industry representatives from across the continent to exchange good practices and present new research findings so that as a sector we can improve the products, service and delivery on our road network.

The Congress will be structured along three overarching themes:

1) Delivery of Road Infrastructure

There is nowadays an overwhelming consensus that delivery and procurement models for road and its related equipment suffer from several shortcomings that put constraints on authorities' ability to purchase the services which provide the best value for money and at the same time, fail to give market players the appropriate incentives to innovate. As such, there is a need to explore new concepts and models for the delivery of a safe and sustainable infrastructure that will look, amongst others at the following concepts:

- Existing legal frameworks across Europe concerning public procurement for roads and identification of good practices
- Opportunities offered by the new legal and policy tools, e.g. the revision of the Directive for Public Procurement and voluntary Green Public Procurement Criteria
- How European standards can provide authorities and industry with common methodologies for assessing life-cycle of different road products
- How can authorities make use of existing tools to provide industry with the right incentives in order to stimulate innovation
- Lengthening the maintenance cycle for road projects
- Road user charging schemes and acceptability



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2) Safe Road Infrastructure

Europe is a leader in road safety. Yet, despite impressive reductions in road fatalities since 2001, recent data seems to suggest a significant slowdown in the decline rate, implying the need for a fresh push in order to ensure that the ambitious targets of the European Road Safety Programme are reached.

Given that a safe road infrastructure is a sine qua non for safe transport system, this theme will explore the contribution of road infrastructure to different road safety policies and identify future challenges. Amongst other, the following themes will be explored:

- Road Safety Policies at European level and identification of good practices in field of work zone safety, passive and active safety, road safety audits etc
- Addressing the needs of vulnerable road users, e.g. older drivers, P2W, pedestrians etc
- European standards for roads – what next?
- Understanding how European industry and public authorities can effectively work together to ensure a win-win framework for road equipment covered by the Construction Products Regulation



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3) Technology and adaptation

Technological changes both from the vehicle and infrastructure sector mean that the road of the future will differ significantly to what it is today. While there is a huge focus on road automation from a vehicle side, there has been to-date very little attention paid to how road infrastructure can be adapted to ensure a smooth transition which will be characterised by the co-existence of both automated and conventional vehicles.

In similar fashion, ITS is principally seen through the prism of V2V, V2I and I2V communication, yet it is clear that the availability of new digital tools and data will undoubtedly have a significant impact on the ability of road owners to manage their network on more efficient and intelligent manner.

Last but not least, new infrastructure innovations such as energy absorbing infrastructure and modular concepts will inevitably have implications on how roads are constructed and maintained and may give road infrastructure an even more vital role to play as a vector for growth and jobs.

Amongst other, the following themes will be explored:

- How roads can be used to harvest energy and the broader implications
- How road infrastructure can support the transition to automation and cope in the medium term with the co-existence of automated and conventional vehicles on the same road
- Data harvesting for road maintenance
- Decision making tools to support road owners ability to maintain roads in a more cost-effective manner

Key dates

Call for abstracts: December 2015

Acceptance of abstracts and invitation for papers: February 2016

Acceptance of papers: April 2016

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