



Manuel Battista

On 18 June 2014 ERF had her 1st biennial ERF Symposium on "Future Road Infrastructure Challenges" in Brussels. About 100 stakeholders participated in this event. It was organised as a dynamic and interactive forum to discuss the current challenges faced by the sector and it was structured around five principal themes: Safety, Sustainability, ITS, Financing and Innovation.

Mr. Manuel Battista of World Highways acted as Symposium Moderator

In the Safety theme Konstandinos Diamandouros of ERF presented the ERF Safety Programme. In this programme 4 ERF Working Groups are

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Konstandinos Diamandouros

active: Road Restraint Systems, Road Markings, Road Signs and Work Zone Safety. The Work Zone Safety project focusses on the functional and performance requirements for the safety equipment presently displayed in work zones across the TEN-T road network. It compares and analyses not only whether the right equipment is used at the right place and moment but also the adequate performance of the equipment and to which standards.

In the discussion the difficulties in collecting safety data was addressed. There is a need for a European uniformity in the data collection. It was also mentioned that money (taxes) should be earmarked for infrastructure development.

In the Sustainability theme Ms Elena Garbarino (EC) explained the process of the revision of the Green Public Procurement Directive.

Adewole Adesiyun (FEHRL) presented the ECOLABEL Project.

The main objective of this project is to develop a new, green, holistic and EU-harmonised ecolabeling methodology for road products and infrastructures, by integrating environmental economic, social and technical aspects in a Life Cycle Engineering (LCE) approach.

In the Roundtable discussion, where Egbert Beuving (EAPA) was one of the panellist, Beuving mentioned CEN might be involved in the ECOLABEL project (as mentioned by Adesiyun), but the CEN Committee dealing with Road materials is not involved at all in this project. It was also mentioned in the discussion that there are too many initiatives regarding 'green / eco' labels; there is a lack of co-ordination while there is a need for (only) one robust method.



Stefan Gerwens

In the Financing theme Pawel Stelmaszczyk of DG MOVE spoke about the New legal framework & funding instrument for EU TEN-T Policy. Only 10% of the TEN-T budget is for road projects, the other 90% is for rail, water, etc.

Stefan Gerwens (Pro Mobilität) spoke about Road Asset Management: Maintaining and improving a sustainable and efficient road network. He mentioned that the total length of EU road network is about 5,5 million kilometres with an estimated value of 8000 billion Euro.

Gerwens also stressed the urgent need for Member States to prioritise road maintenance and the putting into place of alternative financing mechanisms.



Siobhan McKelvey (Nynas) presented the European Road Initiative (ERI) and e-motion