



23-26 April 2012, Athens, Greece

Sustainable Mobility through Innovation

NEWSLETTER (no. 4 – March 2012)

Why go to Athens? – TRA 2012's unique selling points



TRA2012 is not "just another transport conference": its conception is unique, as is the make-up of its delegates! It is not a single-mode conference: there will be experts from each surface transport mode discussing the challenges of their mode. And at the plenary and strategic sessions, they will be brought together in a set-up that encourages true cross-modal fertilisation and the preparation for a future that will be shaped by integrated mobility. Enhanced cross-modal learning is however not the only singularity of TRA2012. [Read more](#) for some more.

ERTRAC on the move to TRA2012



The **European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC)** will be present in Athens for TRA2012 together with CEDR and the European Commission (EC), as well as for the first time with the technology platforms for rail and maritime. This edition of TRA will therefore allow the challenges of transport to be addressed with a **system approach**, including co-modality topics, where the different modes are contributing together towards a more efficient mobility for passengers and goods. [Read more](#)

Thematic and poster session programme now finalised



The TRA2012 programme is now complete with the recent addition of some 47 thematic sessions, which will each consist of four to five oral presentations of scientific paper topics relevant to one of the six pillars of the conference. Some 150 poster presentations will also be given during the four days of TRA2012 (one to two per day), which are also being grouped together by pillar. [Read more](#)

Network and relax among the most prominent pieces of art



At the New Acropolis Museum, location of the TRA2012 Gala Dinner, statues and sculptures and architectural remains of the times of Perikles will be your company. After a tour of the galleries, Gala Dinner guests will enjoy their cocktail and dinner in the Museum's restaurant and on its open-air terrace. The restaurant is located on top of the Museum, with a breathtaking view of the Acropolis. [Read more](#) about this and other aspects of the social programme. Click [here](#) to register and [here](#) for more registration details.

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Why go to Athens? – TRA 2012's unique selling points

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1. Horizon 2020: the new EU research and innovation programme

The funds made available by the EU's new research and innovation programme are set to increase enormously. The new scheme, called "Horizon 2020", will start on 1st January 2014. €7.7 billion are earmarked for "Smart, green and integrated transport" in the European Commission (EC) proposal. At TRA2012, you will get first-hand information from EC officials about the transport priorities, the funding schemes and instruments, the differences to the current programme etc. The first calls for proposals under the new programme are planned for the end of 2013. Seize the chance to prepare for the new programme right from the start! Go to Athens and listen and learn!

2. Meet with and talk to high-level decision makers and opinion leaders (all confirmed):

• POLICY-MAKERS:

Mr. George Babiniotis, Greek Ministry of Education;
Ms Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science;
Ms Marisa Matias, Member of the European Parliament's Research Committee;
Mr Makis Vouridis, Greek Minister of Infrastructures, Transport and Networks.

• ROAD & AUTOMOTIVE:

Mr Graham Dalton, Chief Executive, Highways Agency;
Mr Nevio Di Giusto, CEO of Fiat Research Centre;
Mr Jean-Luc di Paola-Galloni, Valeo Group Vice-President Sustainable Development and External Affairs, Vice-Chairman of the European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC);
Mr Jan Hendrik Dronkers, Director General Rijkswaterstaat;
Mr Ger Maas, President of ENCORD and Strategy Director of Royal BAM Group;
Mr Wolfgang Steiger, Director Future Technologies Volkswagen AG, Chairman of ERTRAC.

• RAIL & PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Mr Alain Flausch, Secretary-General of the International Association of Public Transport (UITP);
Mr Jean-Pierre Loubinoux, Director-General of the International Union of Railways (UIC);
Mr Andrew McNaughton, Chairman of the European Rail Research Advisory Council (ERRAC), Chief Engineer of Network Rail;
Mr Henri Poupart-Lafarge, Chairman of the Association of the European Rail Industry (UNIFE) and President of Alstom Transport.

• MARITIME RESEARCH & SHIPPING INDUSTRY:

Mr Willem Laros, chairman of the WATERBORNE technology platform;
Mr John C. Lyras, Member of the Board and former President of the European Community Shipowners' Association (ECSA);
Mr Bernard Meyer, CEO of cruise ship builder Meyerwerft.

3. Share cutting-edge discussions and research at TRA2012

At TRA2012, you will also be able to participate in debates at the forefront of transport thinking and science. Here are a few highlights from the Strategic (STS), Special (SPS) and Thematic Sessions (THS):

Five distinguished speakers will set out the "**Rail Vision for the future**" in STS 2. Among them will be *Prof Dr Andrew McNaughton*, Rail Network's Chief Engineer and ERRAC Chairman.

Questions of energy efficiency and the de-carbonisation of road transport will be addressed in STS 12 "**The Future of Road Transport Electrification**". Views from the automotive and energy industries will be blended there with presentations from Renault, Siemens, Toyota Motor Europe, the Institut für Energietechnik (ETH) Zürich and the EC.

A paper shortlisted for the TRA2012 Best Paper Award in THS 10 **"Transport Modeling and Simulation"** will show how to improve traffic modeling, prediction and management by "Augmenting the Floating Car Data Approach by Dynamic Indirect Traffic Detection".

STS 6 **"Sustainable mobility in cities for Passengers"** will, for example, look into the questions of better integrating means of public transport (PT), improving PT-car coordination and supporting cycling and walking. In THS 30 **"Transport Mode Shifts"**, a shortlisted paper will report on the use of cellular network data to improve the interconnectivity of underground transit systems.

Exclusively, TRA2012 will also report on **"Innovative Mobility Solutions: CIVITAS"** (SPS 4), and on the **"European Bus of the Future"** in SPS 2.

"Waterborne Industries' Competitiveness" will take centre stage at STS8. A line-up of high-level speakers will answer the questions of what needs to be done to keep Europe's maritime industries afloat.

THS 7 **"The Financing of Transport Infrastructure"** will feature a paper that looks into the advantages and disadvantages of alternatives to Public-Private-Partnerships. It is based on practical experience in the Netherlands.

Last but not least, two senior speakers of the EC, *Deputy DG Fotis Karamitsos* and *Director Andrés Sieglér* will report about the "Strategic Transport Technology Plan" and the "Implementation of the Innovation Union in Transport". Their keynote speeches, to be given in STS 1 **"Innovation in Transport – New Trends from the EU"**, will be followed by a panel discussion with audience participation.

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TRA2012 is also taking place at an important time concerning the **preparation of Horizon 2020**, the next European framework programme for research and innovation, to which ERTRAC is delivering a comprehensive input of strategic agendas and innovation roadmaps. In this particular context, key topics will be highlighted during TRA2012, such as the request for a continuation of the [European Green Cars Initiative](#) as a contractual Public-Private Partnership within Horizon 2020.

The conference programme does reflect both the Strategic Research Agenda of the technology platforms and the objectives structuring Horizon 2020. Plenary sessions, involving high level speakers from companies and public authorities, including the EC, will cover the essential topics of **delivering innovation** out of research; defending the **competitiveness** of the European industry; and **decarbonising** and introducing **new energies** within the transport system. Strategic sessions will allow particular aspects of these challenges to be addressed, including topics of specific importance for ERTRAC such as:

- electrification of vehicles;
- sustainable mobility in cities;
- efficient intermodal logistics;
- integrated safety;
- infrastructures for the 21st century;
- integrated transport from the travellers' perspective; etc.

Thematic sessions will address precise research issues, presenting contributions sent by researchers to the conference Programme Committee on the six pillars of the conference. These sessions will allow European and international researchers to present their work and share their results with colleagues coming from all over Europe, including both academic and industry representatives. Moreover, many special sessions will be organized alongside the programme: one of particular interest for ERTRAC will be the special session organised by the [CAPIRE](#) project, during which the update of the [European Roadmap for the Electrification of Road Transport](#) will be presented.

In addition to participation of speakers in these many sessions, ERTRAC will be present in the exhibition area, for distribution of its [Strategic Research Agenda](#) and the latest version of its [research and innovation roadmaps](#). All TRA2012 participants are kindly invited to visit the ERTRAC stand to receive those documents and network with colleagues from road transport research. The ERTRAC booth will be located between the EC booth and the main conference room hosting the plenary sessions.

Along with all my colleagues from ERTRAC, I look forward to a set of fruitful debates and a productive conference for the preparation of Horizon 2020.

Prof. Wolfgang Steiger
Chairman of ERTRAC
www.ertrac.org

Thematic and poster session programme now finalised

The TRA2012 programme is now complete with the recent addition of some 47 thematic sessions, which will each consist of four to five oral presentations of scientific paper topics relevant to one of the six pillars of the conference. Each day, between one and three series of six thematic sessions (one per pillar) will be held in parallel so that delegates can choose which pillar is of most interest.

Some 150 poster presentations will also be given during the four days of TRA2012 (one to two per day), which are also being grouped together by pillar. And an award for the Best Paper will be presented along with the Eltis Award on the morning of Wednesday 25th April right after the Plenary Session. Here we give an overview of some of the highlights of these (oral and poster) presentations per pillar:

PILLAR I: Governance of the transport system (7 Thematic Sessions)

Pillar I content is new compared to the previous TRA conferences. Papers in this pillar address issues of general interest such as Transport policy and economics, Infrastructure financing, Competition, Modal shifts and Efficiency. Both modal and multimodal approaches are covered.

Pillar I includes some excellent papers proposed for the Best Paper award, such as "Public-private collaboration: How private involvement can contribute to network performance" which presents an original analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of alternative approaches to PPPs based on practical experience in the Netherlands; "Estimating the level of service of underground transit systems with cellular network data" which presents an innovative application using cellular telephones etc. Other interesting paper topics include: Value capture estimation as a funding source in London's Crossrail, Metropolitan Transport Authority responsibilities and tasks, Ferry connections for island competitiveness, EU Maritime Transport Policy and Mode shift for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

PILLAR II: Transport, mobility and infrastructure (11 Thematic Sessions)

Urban Public Transport, Transport Modelling and Simulation, Walking and Cycling, Freight Transport, Cooperative and Automated Transport Systems, Infrastructure Management, Traffic Management, Mobility & Accessibility, are the session topics under Pillar II.

Cutting edge papers include benchmarking, integrated infrastructure planning, bus priorities, bicycle transport policy, simulation tools, logistics policies, Green corridors, innovative logistics, risk-based ship design, driving support, cooperative traffic dynamics, public transport accessibility, active travel behaviour, car sharing, mobility management and ramp metering. Particularly original papers include "Development of a model for the estimation of pedestrian level of service"; "Augmenting the Floating car Data Approach by Dynamic Indirect Traffic detection"; and "Congestion control in urban networks under saturated traffic conditions via feedback gating".

PILLAR III: Safety and security (8 Thematic Sessions)

Safety and security related papers address all transport modes and correspond to a significant percentage of accepted papers.

Papers submitted for oral presentations include railway safety and security issues such as integrated security at the railway industry and innovative applications for railways. They also include road and driver safety issues like Advanced Driver Assistance Systems as well as safety assessment. Emphasis is also given on vulnerable users' safety in urban areas such as pedestrians and two wheeler riders. Finally, interesting papers on maritime safety are also included like on "the implementation of risk based ship design and approval (SAFEDOR project)".

PILLAR IV: Energy, environment and resources (6 Thematic Sessions)

During presentations of Pillar IV the selected papers will try to associate transportation with environment. This crucial aspect of transportation is going to be examined with regard to the societal need for decarbonisation in all modes of transport in conjunction with the necessity of air and water quality improvement and noise mitigation.

Examples from European countries will be given through the different papers such as "Energy efficiency road management: the case of the Spanish motorways network". The session topics include Emissions Control and Alternative Fuels, Efficiency, Mitigating Noise Pollution, Energy and Emissions Modelling, as well as Innovative Electromobility Schemes.

PILLAR V: Design and production (vehicles, vessels and infrastructure) (7 Thematic Sessions)
Railway design and construction, Road vehicles, Pavement modelling, Pavements and environment, Rail and maritime vessels, Assessment of bridges and tunnels are the session topics under Pillar V.

Papers address current issues in electric vehicles, automotive design, Railway Maintenance, Life-cycle cost analysis for pavement management, Risk assessment of road tunnels, modelling traffic loads on bridges, tramway vehicles. High ranking papers include: "Modern Railway Infrastructure resilient Fastenings Improves Track's life cycle" and "Achievements and lessons learned in the EU Project Zero Regio" on fuel cell vehicles in Italy and Germany.

PILLAR VI: Complementarities of transport modes (4 Thematic Sessions)

New transport and mobility concepts, Travel behavior and cultural aspects, Logistics and Intermodal transport, Decision support and user acceptance will be covered under Pillar VI.

Latest developments are addressed in papers including: Personal mobility services, Intermodal passenger terminals, smartphones use in travel surveys, behaviour analysis, river information services, intelligent logistics centres, multimodal journey planning and travel demand analysis. Examples of high ranking papers under Pillar VI are: "Mobility towards homogenisation? A synthetic overview through multivariate analysis" and "A Hybrid Heuristic Technique for Optimizing Intermodal Logistics Time Transfer Systems'.

See <http://www.traconference.eu/Thematic-Sessions/thematic-sessions.html> for an overview of all the oral and poster presentations per pillar.

Process followed to develop the Thematic session programme

The TRA2012 Programme Committee launched in January 2011 a call for abstract submission for these oral or poster thematic presentations. The call was addressed at researchers, practitioners, agency and organisations representatives as well as industry representatives from Europe and all over the world. In total, 722 abstracts were submitted by 1,330 authors from 43 countries. Following the closing of abstract submission in May 2011, the abstract reviewing process started and was completed successfully by July 2011. Some 660 abstracts out of the 722 ones submitted were accepted. All the submitted abstracts were evaluated by at least two reviewers (either members of the Programme Committee or external experts and professionals of international calibre invited to assist the committee).

The TRA2012 Programme Committee invited all those who submitted abstracts which have been evaluated positively during the abstract submission phase to then submit their full papers, which were then reviewed by at least two reviewers. Paper review was blind. In the case of conflicting recommendations from the two reviewers, a third review was assigned which determined the final recommendation. All accepted full papers will be published in the *Procedia*, an e-publication of Elsevier. Furthermore, the best papers will be considered after the required content and format modifications for publication in certain selected Elsevier's international journals such as *Accident Analysis and Prevention*, *Transportation*, *Journal of Rail Transport Planning & Management*, *Journal of Safety Research*, etc.

Read more about the overall programme and Opening/Plenary/Closing sessions at <http://www.traconference.eu/conference-programme.html>.

Network and relax among most prominent pieces of ancient art



For about 2,000 years, most of the buildings of the Acropolis had remained intact and survived the storms of time. It was only in the second half of the 17th century that they changed their appearance to what we know today: The Acropolis, then used as a gunpowder magazine, was blown into the air first when it was hit by lightning and a few years later, in 1687, when a Venetian grenade led to a second and even more devastating explosion.

The rubble caused by the explosions could be found around the Acropolis hill. It contained and preserved many of the outstanding pieces of ancient art which are now, together with other collections, on display in the New Acropolis Museum: statues and sculptures and architectural remains of the times of Perikles. These treasures will be your company at the TRA2012 Gala Dinner.

A guided tour through the new Acropolis Museum will be offered to all dinner guests. The first gallery's glass floor offers views to the archeological excavation site, while its upward slope echoes the ascent to the Acropolis. In the Archaic Gallery, the free-standing statues can be admired from all sides, whereas the Parthenon Gallery allows you venerate the frieze of the Parthenon in its original dimensions.

The new Acropolis Museum has a total area of 25,000 m² with an exhibition space of over 14,000 m². Of course, it offers all the amenities of an international museum of the 21st century.

After the tour of the galleries, Gala Dinner guests will enjoy their cocktail and dinner in the Museum's restaurant and on its open-air terrace. The restaurant is located on top of the Museum, with a breathtaking view of the Acropolis.

The seats for the Gala Dinner are limited and will be confirmed on a first-come-first-served basis. The cost for attending the Gala Dinner is €150 per person, including the guided tour, cocktail and dinner. Click [here](#) to register and [here](#) for more registration details.

For more information on the new Acropolis museum and its treasures, please go to: <http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/?pname=Home&la=2>.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME

During the TRA2012 conference, participants will have the opportunity to take part in a rich social programme which includes:

Welcome Reception

April 23rd 2012, Megaron Athens International Conference Center

Gala Dinner

April 24th 2012, New Acropolis Museum Restaurant

Farewell Reception

April 25th 2012, Aegli Zappeiou

All social events are free of charge for TRA2012 participants except for the Gala Dinner.

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