

# Road User Charging Conference 2018

The 2018 Road User Charging Conference is back for its 15th year in Brussels, where speakers from all over the world will join together to discuss the future of road transport, road pricing.

The annual Road User Charging Conference will be held on the 7th and 8th of March 2018 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Brussels. This is an annual event which has been running for 15 years. The conference will feature speakers from all over the world and provide insight into issues and trends pervading the road pricing and intelligent transportation system industries. Topics will include observations of the role road pricing plays in conjunction with sustainable transport, issues of interoperability and technology.

Opening and chairing the conference on day one will be general secretary Kallistratos Dionelis, European Association of Operators of Toll Road Infrastructures (ASECAP). ASECAP has 22 national members and manages more than 50,000 km of road networks. Dionelis has previously served the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Greece. He has also served in Brussels in the Greek Delegation in the EU, as the counsellor responsible for transport and environment.

Chairing the conference on day two is Steve Morello, partner at D'Artagnan Consulting. Morello has been at the vanguard of defining, implementing and evaluating intelligent transportation systems. He has applied his ITS experience to road user charging projects covering distance-based charging, congestion charging, all-electronic tolling, heavy vehicle tolling, and automated enforcement. Since 2011, he has been in the US working on defining and implementing road user charging projects.

Over the course of the two days, attendees are encouraged to be inquisitive and ask questions. They will also have opportunities to participate in key industry discussions. In addition to this, there will be multiple networking breaks during the day, as well as a drinks reception hosted by the lead partner, ARUP.

Speakers from Norway, Slovenia, USA, Singapore, Netherlands, Belgium and many more will also be present to provide case studies and insights into any strategies or projects that have been implemented to address issues of tolling, sustainability and future innovation for the transport industry. For example, attendees will be privy to Amsterdam's approach to funding sustainable mobility, creating low emission zones in Belgium as well as receiving an update on the reform of Norway's tolling system – and this is just day one.

Day two will provide insight into the finalisation of the next



Kallistratos Dionelis



Steve Morello

generation Electronic Road Pricing system in Singapore and newly implemented changes in electric tolling in Slovenia. There will also be example road user charging case studies from the USA covering the latest developments in the East Coast, reviewing the pilot in Washington and looking at the future steps of the MBUFA. The US speakers will also engage in a panel discussion where they will discuss new improvements to public roads in the US, how pilot schemes help to demonstrate the feasibility of road user charging and how road users will

benefit from improved roads.

Conference speakers include the likes of organisations such as the Road Haulage Association, Transport & Environment and the Nordic Logistics Association. They will impart their views on the both current and future issues of road pricing and what this means for road users, operators and network providers. Organisation representatives will be addressing questions of how countries will be affected by the changing legislation - taking into consideration external costs of transport, quality of infrastructure, reduction of CO2 emissions and the fair distribution of costs through the use of road charging.

The Road User Charging Conference will also feature sessions from tolling solution providers who will discuss the latest tolling solutions and future innovations, looking at the inexorable links between road policy, global market trends and road pricing solutions. Questions of who pays versus who benefits from road charging will be explored, in addition to how tolling can be made easier for users and improve road network efficiency.

Issues of interoperability and what this means for road users will also be tackled – a discussion will be held on day one of the conference that will explore factors to consider the amendment of the EETS directive. This will include looking at factors such as cross border enforcement, service coverage, separation of accounts and accreditation.

Additionally, the European Commission will be sharing updates on the EU legislation on road user charging followed by discussions about how countries will be affected by the amendments. Likewise, there will be dedicated environmental sessions focusing on sustainable transport, the role of road user charging and the importance of CO2 emissions. Likewise, the sessions will look at the challenges of working to reduce emissions and keep costs down. ■