

## ASECAP PRESS RELEASE

### **2013 ASECAP Study and Information Days**

#### *Impacts beyond the motorway: Tolling as an instrument for sustainable growth*

The 41<sup>st</sup> edition of the annual ASECAP Study and Information Days took place in Dubrovnik, Croatia from 26 to 28 May 2013 and brought together about 200 professionals from the road infrastructure sector across Europe and beyond. The detailed programme of the event is available [here](#). On 26 May 2013, the ASECAP Governing Bodies moreover elected Mr. Jean MESQUI (ASFA) as President of the Association for the term 2013-2014, Mr. Øyvind HALLERAKER (Norvegfinans) as first Vice President and Mr. Massimo SCHINTU (AISCAT) as second Vice President; Mr. Klaus SCHIERHACKL (ASFINAG) has become ASECAP's Immediate Past President.

The conference's political debates and technical sessions underlined the dedication of ASECAP and its members to keep contributing to a smart and sustainable mobility, economic growth and job creation in a socially oriented market. A key point of the discussions was how individual toll road infrastructure operators in practice manage their motorways and provide a safe, efficient and green mobility making proper use of intelligent technologies.

*"The common denominator for our contribution to sustainable development today and tomorrow is tolling"*, stated outgoing ASECAP President and CFO of ASFINAG Mr. Klaus SCHIERHACKL, specifying that the revenue generated by the collection of tolls from the user is a prerequisite for the efficient management of the network, ensuring high levels of safety, service and maintenance, with due consideration of the environment. This point is also highlighted in a joint tolling declaration that was signed during the conference by ASECAP and the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) (see separate press release [here](#) and read the declaration [here](#)).



Mr. Christos ECONOMOU from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport underlined the role that ASECAP plays in relation to the development of EU transport policy and added that "*charging for the use of infrastructure and internalizing the external transport costs in accordance with the polluter pays principle are key factors of the EU policy orientations. A road charging package that the Commission is preparing will aim at further improving the EU instruments that are available for this*".

The sector and the EU institutions agreed that the economic and financial crisis has underlined the importance of having proper recourse to Public-Private Partnerships and innovative financial instruments, in order to ensure that the huge needs across the Trans-European Road Network can be met despite restrained national budgets.

In this regard, the new President of ASECAP and Executive Director of ASFA, Mr. Jean MESQUI, insisted that the toll concession framework offers at the same time the necessary stability and sufficient flexibility for road infrastructure operators to be able to carry out their long-term responsibilities, providing an adequate road service with clear direct and indirect benefits for society as a whole. "*We are proud of the high-quality service we offer to our customers, but also of our corporate responsibility, of how we give consideration to the environment and of our contribution to the creation of jobs and growth*".

#### **Notes to Editors:**

ASECAP is the European Association of Operators of Tollled Road Infrastructures. It gathers 21 national members whose network spans more than 46.000 km of motorways, bridges and tunnels across Europe. ASECAP's mission is to promote tolling and the direct user-payer principle as the most efficient tool to finance the construction, safe operation and effective maintenance of motorways and other major road infrastructures.

