

10th ASECAP Road Safety Conference

Road safety - A shared responsibility

A story of success or failure?

Tuesday 21st March 2017, 9.00 h – 13.30 h

European Economic and Social Committee

2, Rue Van Maerlant, 1040 Brussels

ASECAP 10th Annual Road Safety Conference took place in Brussels on the 21st of March 2017. ASECAP and its members consider Road Safety as their key mission and the cornerstone of their operations ensuring that toll roads remain the safest roads in Europe.

The zero vision scenario envisaged by the European Commission has become more and more challenging considering the recent EU statistics that show a limited reduction in the number of road fatalities in Europe. While many hopes lie in the deployment of automated vehicles, road safety operators strongly believe in the key role of cooperation activities amongst the main stakeholders to address road safety issues. In this frame, the Conference gave the opportunity for discussions between the key Road Safety stakeholders.

The key personalities in the opening session were:

ASECAP President Mr. José BRAGA made the welcome speech, the Member of the European Parliament and the Transport & Tourism Committee, Mr. Georges BACH followed with his views and the European Commissioner for Transport, Mrs. Violeta BULC, made the keynote speech.

The messages of the above personalities and the future orientations presented by the Commissioner with their messages discussed in both panels of the 10th ASECAP Road Safety Conference.

Under the auspices of these two panels, wide range of issues have been discussed regarding EU priority on Road Safety and the EU Safety Action Plan, as well as the

Key involvement of toll operators as key safety contributors in the commitment to increase safety within the approach of the live saving chain.

Analysis of the conference

The ASECAP General Secretary opened the 10th ASECAP Annual Road Safety Conference by introducing ASECAP President Mr. José BRAGA, Commissioner Mrs. Violeta BULC, and the Member of the European Parliament Mr. Georges BUCH and set the scene for the discussions for the 10th ASECAP Annual Road Safety Conference.

ASECAP President Mr. José BRAGA

The Welcoming speech of the Conference made by the ASECAP President Mr. José BRAGA. Mr. BRAGA welcomed Commissioner Mrs. Violeta BULC and the representative of the European Parliament and Member of TRAN committee Mr. Georges BUCH, as well as all the participants.

President Mr. BRAGA, in his speech, highlighted Road safety and the daily reduction of Road fatalities as the main priority for all the ASECAP members. Safety on roads is a social, economic and technical “service-product” that all Road transport Stakeholders need to cooperate and produce. ASECAP members invest strongly in the Highways’ network, in construction, in maintenance and of course in ITS intelligent technologies given that society, economy, policy makers and industries face an innovative, fast-changing transport era.

Member of the European Parliament and the TRAN committee, Mr. Georges BUCH

MEP Mr. BUCH presented the vision and the targets of the European Parliament regarding the Road Safety priority. Mr BUCH in his speech, made an overview regarding the new technological frame that we should take into account in the road safety challenge, the critical safe actions with the implementation of the new automated vehicles and also the special category of the pedestrians and the bicycles, that we should take into account when we planning the future safety actions. Additionally, MEP Mr BUCH he presented the planned actions regarding the update of the Road Safety legislation and the role of the European Parliament.

Keynote Speaker:

European Commissioner for Transport, Mrs. Violeta BULC

European Commissioner, Mrs. Violeta BULC opened her speech with a political-social message that “every day 70 citizens lose their lives in EU Roads”. Commissioner, Mrs. BULC characterized the fatal accidents as the worst epidemic in our days. She highlighted that we have 26.000 road deaths per year. Additionally, the social-economic cost is calculated more than 100 Billion Euros. This is much more than the 6-year total budget that EU foreseen for the investments in transport. Even if we have a significant reduction of fatal accidents in EU Roads during all these years, EU needs new, innovative and efficient tools to keep the reduction of fatal accidents at high levels.

The three Key pillars regarding the Road Safety are the three “e”s, i.e. Education, Engineering and Enforcement where EU needs to act in the following years.

European Commissioner referred to the different safety environments according to road type and she congratulated ASECAP for the good job. Motorways have only 8% of all road fatalities and it is significant to develop synergies with all relevant stakeholders aiming at an efficient exchange of best practices. Additionally Mrs. Violeta BULC made an overview regarding the important role of innovation in our EU efforts to avoid human errors, to strengthen the cooperative intelligent transport systems and to promote the driver assistance technologies as instruments for the further reduction of fatal accidents.

In the closing of her speech, Commissioner Mrs. BULC highlighted that “Life is what counts most” and she invited all the participants in the high level Ministerial-Stakeholders’ Road Safety and Maritime Conference that will take place in Malta, at 28th and 29th of March 2017.

In the closing of this high-level panel, the ASECAP Secretary General, Mr. Kallistratos Dionelis summarized the key inputs of the high-level panel and the ASECAP road safety position. Additionally, he warmly thanked for their active contribution to the 10th ASECAP Road Safety Conference the European Commissioner for Transport Mrs. Violeta BULC, the ASECAP President Mr. José BRAGA and the Member of the European Parliament and the TRAN committee, Mr. Georges BUCH.

1° PANEL: Interactive Debate with European policy makers and relevant stakeholders

EU priority on road safety: are we fulfilling the EU safety action plan?

The moderator of the panels, Mr. Kevin BORRAS, Editor-in-Chief, Thinking Highways, set the scene for the discussions for the panel and presented the speakers and their presentations followed by discussions and Q&A.

Introductory speech: European barometer of responsible driving

➤ **Bernadette Moreau, Vinci-Autoroutes / ASFA**

Mrs. MOREAU presented the European barometer of responsible driving, with an overview of the European drivers' conducts, the risky behavior and best road safety practices.

Policy makers

➤ **Georges BACH, Member of the Transport & Tourism Committee, European Parliament**

Mr. BACH made an overview of the key points regarding road safety, with critical inputs regarding the planned actions, and vision of the European Parliament, as well as he highlighted the need for road safety coordinated actions under a common regulatory frame, in a fast changing road environment.

➤ **Fotini IOANNIDOU, Head of the Road Safety Unit, DG MOVE**

In the presentation, Mrs. IOANNIDOU analyzed the EC plans on how to move closer to Vision Zero with key actions of: Education, Awareness, Enforcement, Engineering (Connected & automated vehicles & Infrastructure) and Exchange of best practices. Mrs. IOANNIDOU presented the key points regarding the areas for further improvement of EU road infrastructure and the planned actions including the revision of the existing safety legislation.

Key Industry Partners

➤ **Malika SEDDI, ASECAP COPER II Chair**

(ASECAP COPER II: ASECAP Permanent committee dealing with Road Safety)

Mrs. SEDDI presented the ASECAP actions regarding Road Safety, as the top priority of toll motorway companies. Also presented the significant reduction of road fatalities on the ASECAP tolled motorways and the ASECAP members' permanent action to raise public awareness. The ASECAP network is the safest road network. As result of high investments for proper standards in road design and good maintenance, the risk of having a fatal accident in ASECAP motorways is three

to six times lower than other roads. Additionally, Mrs. Seddi presented the main accident causes on motorway and the further possible improvement with the interaction between the road safety triangle: infrastructure, vehicle and driver. Regarding the ITS and the Autonomous and connected vehicles, ASECAP motorways are offering well-maintained infrastructures in order to welcome autonomous vehicle & new mobility services. The key point, for the deployed of ITS and continue to enhance innovative application to improve safety, are the tolls regimes which allow a constant and sustainable flow of resources to maintain the motorway network road safety.

➤ **Jacob BANGSGAARD, CEO of ERTICO**

Mr. BANGSGAARD presented the way that the ITS and the Car Manufacturers with new technologies can improve safety. Additionally he gave an overview regarding the main challenges of the 0 fatalities target, the key human factor and how the new technologies will act in order to provide solutions with C2C and C2I communication, traffic data and information. All the above are a difficult task that all the involvement road safety stakeholders should take coordinated actions.

➤ **Erik JONNAERT, Secretary General of ACEA**

Mr. JONNAERT presented the actions and the industry commitment regarding Road Safety. The Road Safety is the key priority for all the vehicles manufacturers. Through innovation, the automotive industry continues to invest in safer, cleaner and smarter car-mobility solutions. Mr. JONNAERT presented the safety strategy which includes innovation in vehicle technology, Cooperative ITS, Road user behavior and training, better road design and maintenance and enforcement of the existing traffic regulations. Concerning the Cooperative ITS and C2X, he explained the high need for 100% reliable coverage from the Telecommunication operators. Mr. JONNAERT made specific reference to the role of the proper smart infrastructures that will allow the implementation of the new technologies (like the truck platooning). Mr. JONNAERT concluded that safety remains top priority, innovation will be key to enhancing safety, need for a coherent European approach and he called for a partnership approach with road operators.

The session followed by Q&A, moderated by Mr. Kevin BORRAS, focused on the fast changing technology environment and the different mix technologies as part of the same road infrastructure environment.

2° PANEL: Discussion amongst road safety experts and exchange of best practices/innovative projects

Live saving chain: avoiding road safety fatalities and reducing serious injuries

Involvement of toll operators in the commitment to increase safety

The moderator of the panels, Mr. Kevin BORRAS, Editor-in-Chief, Thinking Highways, presented the speakers and their presentations followed by discussions and Q&A.

- **Alberto Jiménez, Autopistas (Abertis group) / SEOPAN**
Implementation of ISO 39.001 Road Traffic Safety Management System as a Road Operator in Autopistas.
In the presentation, Mr. Jiménez focused to ISO 39001 and Road Traffic Safety actions in Autopistas and the culture of Road Safety.

- **Fanis Papadimitriou, Attikes Diadromes SA / HELLASTRON**
Attica Tollway: How to retain a safe road environment in a busy urban motorway.
Mr. Papadimitriou presented the safety operations in Attikes Diadromes. The positive and effective contribution in operations and road safety is implemented through: continuous monitoring, prompt response in case of damages / failures, fast detection and response time, improved coordination between the involved parties, exploitation and extensive use of new technologies, provision of new services to drivers and direct resolution of a large number of “routine” incidents before evolving and turning into major incidents.

- **Gianmarco Angeletti, Autostrade per l'Italia SpA / AISCAT**
Infrastructure and technologies, PDCA Accidents Investigation and users' awareness: the main keys for “live saving chain”
Mr. Angeletti presented actions from the Autostrade per l'Italia regarding Safety. The key components of road safety improvement with the use of PDCA accident investigations in high accident rate road sections, the optimum use of the available technologies, as well as with the awareness campaigns of the drivers.

➤ **Ulrich Zorin & Jan Sajovic, DARS**

Proposals for the unification of the road safety related regulation

Mr. Sajovic presented three key fields related to road safety, on how to form emergency lanes during congestions caused by traffic accidents or other unexpected events, the colors of reflective elements on roadside delineators or guardrails and the optimum use of the variable message signs.

➤ **Christian Ebner, ASFINAG**

Teamwork in Incident Management - a key for Safer Roads

Mr. Ebner focused to the road safety and the ASFINAG best practice as result of the teamwork in incident management, the high quality partnership between ASFINAG and emergency services, as well as the significant task of the real time incident information on the Austrian motorways.

➤ **Christine Allard, Sanef / ASFA**

One sets for the break

Mrs. Allard presented the initiative of Sécurité Routière and the Sanef group against “falling asleep at the wheel”, with the use of digital campaigns for road safety in order to raise awareness and to encourage the driver to take a break on the motorways.

➤ **Bettoni Francesco Giovan Maria, Società di Progetto Brebemi / AISCAT**

Fog system – Led guide light

Mr. Bettoni, presented the implementation and the operation of a fog system for safe driving in low visibility.

The session followed by Q&A, moderated by Mr. Kevin BORRAS, focused on the details of the different best practices, presented by the ASECAP members.

Closing – concluding remarks

Closing the 10th ASECAP Road Safety Conference, the ASECAP Secretary General, Mr. Kallistratos Dionelis presented the conclusions of the conference and he focused in the significant task of the cooperation between all the involved Road safety stakeholders. He mainly underlined the need of a strong and transparent cooperation between the public sector and the industry regarding the targeted objectives and the realistic achievements. Additionally, Mr. Dionelis highlighted the role that the road operators play in developing further the safety in the road environment through high investments in road infrastructures, maintenances and ITS equipment.