



## Conclusions of the International Conference

### “ROADS OF THE FUTURE”

The proceedings of the International Conference “ROADS OF THE FUTURE” organized by the Greek Road Federation with the collaboration of Patras University were successfully completed. The conference, in which over 200 people participated, was held at the amphitheatre of the Hellenic Ministry of Transport on 8 and 9 of July 2007 under the auspices of the International Road Federation, the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning, & Public Works and the Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communications. The conference’s opening was made, among others, by Mrs. Evaggelia Tsagka General Director of the Hellenic Ministry of Transport and Communications and Mr. Athanasios Kostis General Director of the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning, & Public Works.

In the first part of the conference sessions, it was given great emphasis to the **sustainable development** that constitutes the long-term political objective regarding the balancing of the financial, social and environmental priorities as they are defined in the agenda 21 of the United Nations Organization. The sustainable development is currently the major priority of the Road Transport sector that is the only sector of transport that is committed in public to achieve sustainable development.

The major climate changes can no longer be ignored. The future is already here. Road design should adjust to the new reality. A significant number of conference sessions with speakers from Greece, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and Turkey were devoted to the ecological and safe mobility in the roads of the future.

In the second session of the conference, which was devoted to the pricing of roads use (urban tolls), it was investigated whether road pricing is a social commodity or a business product. Supporters from various countries where urban tolls have already applied, such as Sweden, Dane, UK, Germany, described the features of such systems. Professor Evaggelos Matsoukis, Managing Director of the Greek Road Federation mentioned that sooner or later urban tolls will be applied in Athens, while he presented his complete proposal regarding this topic. (Indicated attached)

By applying this programme in Athens, a city with high level of traffic congestion and atmospheric pollution, we could succeed a significant overall annual fuel saving and reduction of carbon dioxide. That means that the pricing of the congestion could offer remarkable, fundamental profits in the National Economy.

Beyond others, carpooling system was suggested. This system refers to the common use of one car specifically to travel from home to work, by people that already have a car but they travel together in order to reduce the costs.

In the third conference session new concepts and innovations examined regarding the planning and road construction, with suggestions on noise barriers, new techniques in road signaling etc.



In the fourth conference session the European Unions Green Programme was examined. This programme is against pollution and traffic congestion and many suggestions were made from Norwegian and Swiss experts. Furthermore an examination was made regarding alternative fuels and ways of improvement of energy efficiency in the road transport sector. It was emphasized that in the triptych infrastructure – vehicle – driver, the driver is the weak bond. In the future, drivers should be conformed to the improved ways of driving such as ECO driving. The ECO driving system is an environmentally friendly way of driving in which unfortunately the majority of the Greek drivers are not familiar.

The fifth conference session was dedicated to the advanced systems, the technological developments and the equipments related to the improvement of the road safety in motorways. Modern systems were presented regarding the case management, the Traffic Management of big vehicles with ITS usage, the modern Telematic systems, and also new technologies in the road freight transport sector.

The conference closed with the visit of more than a hundred participants at ATTIKI ODO facilities, where a detailed presentation took place regarding the overall construction progress of the most Modern Greek Highway. Moreover a tour was conducted to the premises of the Traffic Management Centre of ATTIKES DIADROMES Company. During the opening of the conference Mr. E. Matsoukis, president of the conference, awarded Plaques to Mr. N. Micha, Mr. E. Basilako and Mr. B. Despotopoulo, Managing Directors of Greek Road Federation, for their significant contribution to the 56-year course of the Greek Road Federation and also to ATTIKI ODO that recently elected from I.R.F. as the safest highway in Europe.