



## Task Force Infrastructure - Kick off meeting

### Minutes

**22. Feb. 2010 in Frankfurt**

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#### **Attached files :**

- Agenda-Vs3
- List of Interested persons to date/List of participants in kick off meeting: assignment of participation to working groups
- Presentations : General (HG Balthaus, C. Dumoulin, N. Pralle, Martin Knights (ITA), Gernot Beer (TUG), Paul Waarts (TNO), Elena Martin (Dragados)
- Report of ETP Expert Group, October 2009 "Strengthening the role of European ETPS in addressing Europe's grand Societal Challenges"
- Lifelines for Europe, TFI Initial document presented to HLG – Base document to launch initiative on Infrastructure
- Brochure 3<sup>rd</sup> announcement: TRA 2010 in Brussels (Transport Research Area). 7-10 June 2010

#### **Summary and Conclusions**

- The kick-off meeting was attended by a heterogeneous group of organisations across Europe
- The majority decided to name the initiative "**refine**": **Research for Future Infrastructure Networks in Europe**
- 4 Working groups were established:
  - WG1: Vision strategic approach
  - WG2: Stakeholders
  - WG3: Inventory of Existing Know-how
  - WG4: Organisation
- Each WG has two leaders
- Luc Bourdeau will establish an access list for all WGs to enable them to download documents. Leaders will have author's rights.

#### **Work organisation and schedule for the two next months**

- Production of a Vision (document of a few pages)
- WGs should start simultaneously
- Methodology: a core group and a number of working groups.

#### **⇒ Following schedule was decided**

April 1<sup>st</sup>: first draft of all documents

April 30<sup>th</sup>: all documents should be ready

- Sylvie Proeschel suggested that the TRA 2010 (Transport Research Arena conference) in Brussels from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of June be an opportunity to promote the **reFINE** initiative as there will be a number of representatives from the Commission, ERTRAC and CEDR (for more info: TRA website [www.traconference.eu](http://www.traconference.eu) )
- FEHRL Secretary General will get in contact with Refine. Specific presentation not possible at this stage, however introduction of.



## **Minutes – verbatim**

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Hansgeorg Balthaus welcomed the 45 participants. He stressed that more than 27 countries were represented, from both public and private sectors. He recalled the genesis of TFI (official launch 25-11-09) and presented the objectives of the new ECTP group. A vision document including a scope is expected for April 2010. The document should develop a strategy to be presented to stakeholders and EU commission (strategic agenda). A roadmap will then be further established as well as terms of reference. The documents needs addressing the general needs of the society, usually referred to **grand challenges**.

### **Agenda of the meeting**

Norbert Pralle explained the agenda of the meeting in details. The objective of the meeting is to develop a strategy in order to present it to stakeholders and the EU commission. The idea is to have a presentation of the infrastructure oriented RDI within EU. For this purpose, there is a need for a core organisation.

Addressing general needs of society is the priority of the EU Commission and in that context the TFI should offer and claim the right expertise without forgetting to address education items, decision makers while observing the current political climate (megatrends), identify and seize short or medium term opportunities.

The objective is to build up a vision message and the related scope and to go beyond ECTP traditional topics. One question nevertheless remains: can we cover everything?

This work will be based upon volunteers mandated by their organisation to contribute to the working groups proposed.

### **Views and Visions**

Then there were 4 presentations (see attached files).

- Martin Knights President of ITA, “ Some opening thoughts”,
- Paul Waarts (TNO), Trend setting for mobility, and sustainable, climate neutral infrastructure
- Gernot Beer (TUG), Graz University of Technology, Austria, “R&D on Infrastructure - Beyond Tunconstruct”
- Elena Martin (Dragados), “Some ideas on R&D Infrastructure Topics”

A general discussion followed the four presentations.

Norbert Pralle recalls the need for a critical mass with a good visibility.

Hansgeorg Balthaus suggested that the different organisations use their own publications and journals to spread information.

Luc Bourdeau underlined that we first have to identify the **challenges and connections between platforms**. We should also be using the right words expressing the big challenges (greening, Ecotech, user...). **FP8 will be built upon the concept of societal grand challenges**. We have to contribute to **solve these challenges with other platforms**. He also explained that there are tremendous changes going on at the Commission right now and that the European scene might change a lot in the short future (2 DGs dealing with transport: DG RTD with the Transport Directorate + the former DG TREN very recently divided into 2 new DGs dealing one with Energy, the second one with Transport (DG MOVE)).

We cannot approach EU as ECTP alone but we have to establish links with other groups and ETPs. As a matter of fact, a lot of materials are already available for drafting the Vision (look at the



Visions from other platforms like ERTRAC, ERRAC for ex.) and we need a scope definition, this is why we have to set up a Working group for the strategic approach.

The question was raised whether infrastructure can be considered as a grand challenge. Another question is mobility and co-modality.

Searching for a initiative title. After some discussion

**“reFINE” (Research for Future Infrastructure Networks in Europe) was adopted.**

### ***Setting up of Working Groups***

**WG 1 - Vision strategic approach** including Task 1

*Leaders: Jean Pierre Hamelin (Vinci), Norbert Pralle (Züblin)*

#### **Strategic Approach - Documentation**

Produce fundamental, strategy-oriented papers

- What will infrastructures look/be like in 10/30/50 years?
- Vision of Construction on Infrastructure
- Scope definition
- Message to decision makers
- Roadmap
- Challenges down to topics

Some participants reminded of the importance of city and intercity mobility. Furthermore, assets should not be the main angle of attack: adaptation to climate change, sparing materials and decreasing land use are part of the main challenges.

**The participants of the meeting unanimously decided to merge tasks 2 and 3 as well as tasks 4 and 5.**

**WG 2 – Stakeholders** including Tasks 2 and 3

*Leaders: Livia Pardi, (Autostrade), Pascal Lemoine (FNTP)*

#### **Analysis of stakeholders**

Identify all stakeholders relevant to construction related infrastructure business

- public / private clients
- contractors
- designers
- users

#### **Catalytic Bodies for Initiative**

- Identify potential EC-champions (organisations, persons)
- Public RDI directorates on national levels
- Contact and establish working relationships with (a) and (b)
- Associations / networks
- Other ETPs, NTPs
- Programmes, such as ERA-net, EUREKA

Such a list is already available from ERTRAC and can be used as a working basis.

The position of stakeholders is changing drastically and we have to change it into account.



There is a need for a balance between private, public actors, associations (Union internationale des chemins de fer, FEHRL, ECTRI, CEDR, etc....), national funding agencies, insurances....

The documents already existing (ECTP...) are to be checked.

Luc Bourdeau recalled that the goal of this work was to initiate a common discussion with those stakeholders.

### **WG 3 - Inventory of Existing Know-how** including Tasks 4 and 5

*Leaders: Emmanuel Tumwesigye (UCC), Louis Demilecamps (Vinci)*

Take stock on achievements:

- results of general projects
- international studies
- implementation reports of clients

#### **Mind the Gap: Inventory on RDI-Needs**

How to use the potential of construction RDI towards infrastructure

- What triggers innovation?
- RDI gaps
- Any studies welcome – international

Existing reports (global risks 2010) and roadmaps have to be used (for example TNO, LCPC, FEHRL...etc...).

RDI needs will strongly depend upon the stakeholders who will join the initiative and the challenges that will be addressed. It will also be very important to find synergies within the EU Commission.

The deliverables of the working groups were not defined so far.

**Luc Bourdeau once more reminded the participants that working on a vision and identifying stakeholders are absolute priorities.**

Gernot Beer suggested that we should first specify the challenges and identify the stakeholders and then only go towards other platforms. Besides, he pointed out that local authorities are not necessarily sensitive to grand challenges but are rather facing local challenges and have to solve acute and immediate problems taking into account the local culture and habits.

### **WG 4 – Organisation** including Task 6

*Leader(s): Claude Dumoulin (Bouygues), Martin Knights (ITA)*

WG 4 has to start immediately.

- Setting up a running team
- Establish core/steering group (members from each WG?)
- Produce Terms of Reference
- Setting up short- and midterm schedule