

THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS GREEK LOCAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Foreward

This is a special issue dedicated to the 19th European Local Association Conference ELAC that took place in Athens in May 2014.

ELAC 2014, Athens

The 19th European Conference of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) organized by the Greek LA Committee and the ICE Country Representative took place from the 8th May 2014 to the 12th May 2014 at the Divani Palace Acropolis Hotel in Athens.

Day 1: Thursday, 8th May 2014

Welcome Cocktail

The Greek Local Association Committee and the Representative of Greece welcomed the representatives and their partners that arrived from 18 countries at Divani Palace Acropolis Hotel with a drink and a light buffet. In a nice and friendly atmosphere everyone had a chance to meet each other. Before the end of the cocktail the Committee handed out to the representatives and their partners their welcoming packs containing the Events Programme booklet, the Technical Conference booklet, a city map and several tourist brochures and various gifts and products from Greece.

Day 2: Friday, 9th May 2014

Technical Conference

On Friday, 9th May 2014, the Technical Conference on ***"Greece, a Sea and Land Transportation Hub through the Centuries"*** in Divani Acropolis Hotel was held with great success where the number of participants exceeded 150. The conference was

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Photo 1: ELAC Registration -



Photo 2: Day 2 : Technical Conference.



Photo 3: Day 2- Technical Conference.



Photo 4: Day 2 - Speakers: Mr. Antoniadis, Dr. Malindretos, Dr. Vedicos, Mrs. Isaia-Keramida, Mr. Mandalozis, Dr. Papanikolas, Mr. Papakrivopoulos, Dr. Anestis, Dr. Lambropoulos.

attended by representatives of ICE from 18 countries and numerous representatives from the technical profession of Greece, including representatives of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, from companies like: GEFYRA S.A., AEGEAN MOTORWAY S.A., OLYMPIA CONSTRUCTION Joint Venture, NEW ODOS S.A., URS, OMEK etc., as well as Professors of Greek Universities and members of the Greek LA.

The speakers, **Mr Antonis Antoniadis**, Chief Operations Officer at **VIANOX SVOLOS SA**, **Dr. George Malindretos**, Assistant Professor of Economics and Ecology at **HAROKOPIO UNIVERCITY** and **Dr. Vedicos Nikolaos**, Assistant Professor at the Laboratory for Maritime Transport at **NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERCITY** of Athens, developed the topic of Logistics in Greece from ancient times till today and the importance of ports for international transportation. **Mrs. Isaia-Keramida**, Consultant to the General Director of **ERGOSE** referred to the development of railways in Greece but also their connection with the country's ports.

Mr. Mandalozis, Chairman of the Committee for the Environment of the **INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION (IRF)** and Director of Strategic and Organization at **ATTIKES DIADROMES S.A.**, presented the topic of planning and strategic planning of international highways based on sustainable and environmental development. **Dr. Papanikolas**, Vice President and Managing Director at **GEFYRA S.A.**, focused on the Rio-Atirrio bridge, the challenges of such a large project both during construction and operation and maintenance. **Mr. Papakrivopoulos**, Deputy Director of the **MALIAKOS - KLEIDI Construction Joint Venture** presented the highway project "Maliakos - Kleidi", analyzing the technical particularities of the project. **Dr. Ioannis Anestis**, Director of Design and Support in **NEA ODOS SA**, discussed the plans of the European Union for the future of transportation infrastructure along with some new techniques for reconstruction and construction of pavements. Professor of the **NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY** of Athens, **Dr. Sergios Lambropoulos** talked about the need of



Photo 5: **Day 2: Technical Conference:** Present from Greek LA to the President of ICE in the UK Mr Geoff French.



Photo 6: **Day 2: Technical Conference** – President of ICE in the UK **Mr Geoff French** Welcoming Speech.



Photo 7: **Day 2: Technical Conference** – ICE Greek LA President **Mr Panagiotis Kamberis** Final Speech

adjustment of the academic education of Civil Engineering in modern professional requirements in response to the economic crisis and the challenges of our time.

The technical session booklet contained the profiles of the 6 speakers. Their presentations are now available on the ICE European Community ELAC Forum website page at http://www.ice.org.uk/icecomm/Groups/European_community/Forums.aspx?forumid=291

Opening and closing of the conference was formally done by **Mr. Geoff French**, President of ICE in Great Britain and the President of the Greek Local Association **Mr. Panagiotis Kamberis**.

The conference was supported by ICE funds and sponsorships from the companies: TERNA SA, KERIDIS WORKS, OLYMPIA JOINT VENTURE (HOCHTIEF-AKTOR), GEFYRA S.A. and LITHOS Consulting Engineers and thus managed to be free of charge to anyone attended. Also the conference's Communication Sponsor was ypodomes.com

Partners Programme

A special cultural programme was organized for the Representatives' partners at the time of the Technical Conference on Friday.

The partners programme included a tour of **Athens** which was accompanied by a tour guide. At 09.00 the partners departed from the Hotel to meet the "**Happy Train**" at the new Acropolis Museum.

The tour was a drive around the Constitution Square ("Syntagma") and Monastiraki Square and followed an amazing route through the historical center of the city, the old neighborhoods and the hill of Acropolis.

The tour was 60-minute in duration and around Athens's most famous sights and monuments including Acropolis, Plaka, Temple of Zeus, Thisseon, Monastiraki Square, Ancient and Roman



Photo 8: **Day 2: Technical Conference** – ICE Greek LA Committee with President of ICE in the UK Mr Geoff French and Alan Stilwell.



Photo 9: **Day 2: GALA DINNER**



Photo 10: **Day 2: GALA DINNER** – ICE Greek LA Committee with President of ICE in the UK Mr Geoff French, Alan Stilwell and Melissa Zanocco.

Market, Zappeion, Panathinaiko Stadium, Theatre of Herodes Atticus, Hadrian Arch, New Acropolis Museum etc. Returning to the narrow streets of Plaka and enjoying the neoclassical architecture of the buildings with direction to the Constitution Square.

The partners finished their tour by Happy Train at Syntagma Square where along with the guide went to visit the exhibitions at Benaki Museum and had a light lunch. Following the lunch some partners continued to explore the city center by themselves.

Gala Dinner

The day was completed with the Gala Dinner held at the hotel's roof garden. The representatives and their partners along with various important guests, Technical Conference's speakers, ELAC Sponsors, Members of the Greek Technical Chamber (TEE), the IMech and members of ICE in Greece attended the Gala Dinner.

A cocktail was followed by a three course dinner and wine.

A warm speech was given by the ICE Representative in Greece **Mr. George Sboukis** who welcomed and thanked all the participants and sponsors for making that day a success. After a brief introduction of the Greek LA Committee and of the ICE Greek LA, George wished to everyone to enjoy their evening and the rest of the ELAC.

Mr. Geoff French, President of ICE in Great Britain gave a remarkable speech on civil engineering around the world, emphasizing the importance of its role in society, in the past, present and future.

On behalf of all the delegates and their partners, ICE European Council Member **Hamish Douglas** added his thanks and presented a bouquet of flowers and basket of wine to the committee of the Greek Local association and the Country's Representative Mr. George Sboukis.



Photo 11: Day 2: GALA DINNER

Day 3: Saturday 10th May

ICE Business Meeting

On the morning of Saturday 10th May all representatives, the Greek LA Committee and members of the Greek LA attended the ICE Business Meeting that took place in the hotel. Organized by **Melissa Zanocco** Area Manager Europe and chaired by **Alan Stilwell** the Chairman of the European Sub-Committee. After Allan's welcoming speech **Richard Burleigh**, a Council member of Europe, presented an update of the council's matter, which was then followed by a very interesting presentation on the ICE Representatives' Role by **Ruth Dennett** the Head of International. A report by each country's representative was followed by the very useful European Strategy Workshop which was a great opportunity to contribute to the strategy and discuss and share best practice about how to achieve it. Several other issues were discussed in an open session before the Update for 2015 ELAC in Germany was presented. Lastly the Host for country for ELAC 2016 was announced to be Turkey.

The closing of the Business Meeting was made by a very interesting speech by the President Mr Geoff French who summarized the day's discussions.

At the end of the meeting the Greek LA Committee had to say goodbye to Geoff French and Ruth Dennett who were flying back to the UK.

Acropolis Museum Visit

After everyone having their lunch, the relaxing part of the Conference began by a guided tour to Acropolis Museum for all representatives and their partners who were also accompanied by The Greek Representative George Sboukis and by the Greek LA Committee Chairman, Panayiotis Kamberis.

Traditional Dinner

The third day was finished by a traditional dinner at the Psaras' Tavern in Plaka where everyone enjoyed the Greek cuisine in a very relaxing atmosphere accompanied by live music played at the background.

Day 4: Sunday, 11th May 2014

Visit to Mycenae and Nafplio

On Sunday 11th of May all participants of the European Local Association Conference visited the ancient site of Mycenae located in the municipality of Argolis, Peloponnese, with an intermediate stop at the Korinth canal on the way. Upon arrival to the archeological site of the Mycenae the guided tour began. During the tour plethora of information was given regarding the history of the location, the kingdom of Agamemnon, the way of life but also focus was given on technical details such as the materials used for the "Lions Gate" and the famous grave of Agamemnon as well as the possible methods of construction.



Photo 12: Day 4: VISIT TO MYCENAE



Photo 13: Day 4: VISIT TO MYCENAE



Photo 14: Day 4: LUNCH AT NAFPLIO

Day 5: Monday, 12/05/2014

Site Visits.

Monday 12th of May was the last day of the European Local Association Conference, which was the day of the site visits. Two of the most interesting and diverse sites of Athens were visited!

On an early start all participants walk up from the hotel to the Acropolis Hill to visit the most important Engineering Wonder, the **Parthenon on the Hill of Acropolis**. The tour guide took everyone on a very interesting journey back to Ancient Athens, covering the history of the Parthenon Temple, the ways of its construction and its purpose. During the visit everyone had the opportunity to also see the refurbishment works which were currently on going which are due to be finalized in a few months.

The second site visit was at a more modern and the largest construction site currently on going in Greece, the **Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre**. The site consists of the construction and the outfitting of the facilities of the National Opera House, the National Library and of the 170000m² Park. Upon arrival at the site's Visitors' Center the Project's Technical Director and the Foundation's Board Member Mr Maravelias gave a very interesting presentation on the start, progress and vision of the Project. Participants had the chance to ask several questions on the technical and the social and cultural aspects of the Project. From the balcony of the visitors' center everyone witnessed the impressive construction works which were in full speed at the time of the visit. At that point the last group photo was taken.



Photo 15: Day 5: PARTHENON SITE VISIT.



Photo 16: Day 5: STAVROS NIARCHOS CULTURAL CENTER – Presentation by Mr. Maravelias.



Photo 17: Day 5: STAVROS NIARCHOS CULTURAL CENTER – Group photo.

End of ELAC Lunch

To close the Conference all delegates gathered back to the hotel for lunch. On a very relaxing, friendly, happy but also very emotional atmosphere the Representative of Greece and the Greek Local Association Committee had to say a hard goodbye to all the fellow colleagues and their partners from Europe with whom they shared this amazing and 5day ELAC experience!

Overview

The ELAC is a great experience as it covers technical but also cultural events in an atmosphere which is hard to describe in words! It's a great opportunity to meet colleagues and their partners from all over Europe at different age groups and of different background and cultures. It is a nice combination of work and fun!

By meeting the President of the ICE Geoff French, the Vice President of the UK Region and Chairman of the European Sub-Committee Alan Stilwell, the head of ICE International Ruth Dennett and Europe's Area Manager Melissa Zanocco, we had the opportunity to start discussions on all matters of the Greek LA, which will also continue in the future.

The Technical Conference was considered a big success as the aims of an interesting conference covering several aspects of the Transportation of Greece and the promising future of the Profession, and of attracting professionals from different areas and backgrounds from Greece were achieved.

The feedback received from the participants was that whole ELAC event was a great success, which makes the Greek LA Committee feel proudly and morally satisfied! A big thank you to all that made it possible!