

PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 9th June 2019

69th ECCE General Meeting, 30 May – 1 June 2019, Podgorica, Montenegro



69th ECCE General Meeting participants

The 69th ECCE General Meeting was held from 30 May to 1 June 2019, in Podgorica, Montenegro hosted by the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro (IKCG). The 69th ECCE General Meeting was very well attended by delegations from almost all of the ECCE Member organizations and it was chaired by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis.

At the beginning of the meeting opening speeches were held by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis, the IKCG President Srđan Laković and the Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro Pavle Radulovic. In his speech, IKCG President Srđan Laković stressed that the Chamber is ready to support its capacity to implement the ECCE tasks, with the aim of advancing the profession in the European context. The Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism Pavle Radulovic stressed that thanks to such gatherings, the profession is in a position to exchange opinions, experience from practice, to be in the hands of professionals with the most recent achievements in the field of engineering, especially in the field of construction.

50 delegates from 20 countries attended the meeting. Among the distinguished guests were WCCE Past President Emilio Colon, ECEC President Klaus Thurriedl and EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda.

During the 69th ECCE General Meeting, two new Associate Members joined ECCE; Intracom Constructions SA Technical and Steel Constructions, D.T. "INTRAKAT" and the Earthquake Planning & Protection Organization (EPPO) both from Greece were unanimously accepted by the ECCE General Assembly.



ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis



IKCG President Srđan Laković



Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro Pavle Radulovic

The [minutes of the 68th ECCE General Meeting](#), in London were unanimously approved. ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis presented the [ECCE Brief Activity Report October 2018 – May 2019](#) describing briefly the ECCE activities since our last meeting in October 2018 in London. Then, Nikola Lukovic who is delegate of the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro in ECCE addressed a **speech** on the current Position and Role of Chamber of Engineers stressing the importance of strong Engineers Chambers and addressing the regional issues they have been facing.

The financial topics reports were presented by the ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev. He briefly informed the delegates regarding the financial status of ECCE and he also presented the Year End Accounts for 2018 which were unanimously validated by the ECCE General Assembly. Both proposals were validated by the General Assembly. He concluded that ECCE is in good financial standing at the moment.

Then, ExBo Member Platonas Stylianou delivered a presentation on the progress of the [ECCE Position Paper “The need for Structural / Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings in parallel with Energy Efficiency Improvements”](#). Platonas Stylianou is the coordinator of the working group that elaborates the Position Paper.

Next on the Agenda, it was a presentation by the ECCE President regarding the [Construction Industry news](#). ECCE President informed the delegates regarding the latest news of the High Level Tripartite Forum on Construction 2020 and the European Construction Forum to which ECCE participates. Then ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner reported on the Thematic Group 1 “Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation” meeting which he attended in December 2018, presenting also the ECCE views that were submitted to the meeting participants. In the same context of Construction news, ExBo Member Paul Coughlan delivered a presentation on the [ICE Sustainability Route Map](#) which is part of the Global Engineering Congress Legacy.



From left to right: ECCE General Secretary Maria Karanasiou, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis, ECCE Immediate Past President Włodzimierz Szymczak and ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner

Later on, the President of the Ukrainian Council of Civil Engineers (UCCE) Dr. Petro Shyliuk addressed a greeting speech and then the Vice President of the UCCE Nikolay Kiryukhin delivered a [presentation regarding the UCCE](#) and their expected fields of cooperation with ECCE. UCCE is a new ECCE member that joined us in October 2018 and this was the first time they participated in an ECCE General Meeting.

Then, the document [“Guidelines for the organization of the ECCE General Meetings”](#) was presented by the ECCE General Secretary Maria

Karanasiou. The document was ratified by the General Assembly.

ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis informed the General Assembly that the long-standing [ECCE – ASCE Agreement of Cooperation](#) has been renewed and ECCE and ASCE are now at the signing process. He mentioned that activities contemplated under this agreement include:

- Exchange of information regarding the engineering profession in general.
- Encouragement of joint events of all kinds.
- Encouragement of the exchange of students, lecturers, and guests.
- Exchange of information regarding scientific and technical events that are of mutual interest.
- Provide mutual professional advice, especially in all areas of international, technical and scientific matters to the extent provided by each organization to its own members.

Another long term cooperation that will become official is between ECCE and ECEC. The two organizations have been in close cooperation many years now and it has been decided that an Agreement of Cooperation will be signed with the aim to encourage the development of joint (ECCE and ECEC) efforts towards better audibility of Engineers voice in Europe and to raise the visibility of both organizations to the European institutions. ECEC President Klaus Thurriedl confirmed that ECEC is very positive for such Agreement and the next steps will be taken in the following months.

Afterwards, ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev presented on behalf of the Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria a [proposal for the amendment of the ECCE Articles of Association](#). It was commonly agreed that the ECCE Articles of Association must be revised but more time is needed in order to thoroughly examine the topic.



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Then, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis informed the General Assembly about the next steps regarding the ECCE book “Notes on the history of civil engineering” which was issued last October. He mentioned that there is a proposal of reprinting the books but a minimum amount of orders is required and encouraged the ECCE Members to submit their orders as soon as possible as the required number was not reached yet. He also informed the General Assembly that his ambition is to produce a series of books with the history of civil engineering in the ECCE Member countries. Material has been already gathered and more is expected by ECCE members. The first draft of the contents of the

new book will be presented in our next ECCE General Meeting.

After that, ECCE Immediate Past President Wlodzimierz Szymczak presented a [closing report on the ECCE Initiative 2018 European Year of Civil Engineers](#). The report summarized this important ECCE initiative which came to an end successfully and the idea for organizing a similar initiative in the next years that came from our members was commonly accepted.

Later on, the Portuguese National Delegate Fernando de Almeida Santos presented the proposal on behalf of the Ordem dos Engenheiros to host the 70th ECCE General Meeting, in Lisbon, Portugal as part of the Civil Engineering Summit that they are organizing. The Civil Engineering Summit will be held from 24 to 27 September 2019, and the 70th ECCE General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 September. A draft preliminary programme of the Civil Engineering Summit is available [here](#).

Then, it followed a part dedicated to the ECCE partners WCCE, EAMC and ECEC which were given the floor to briefly present news from their organizations. WCCE Past President Emilio Colon delivered a presentation that is available [here](#). EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda's presentation is available [here](#) and ECEC President Klaus Thurriedl's presentation is available [here](#).

The final part of the meeting was an open discussion/ brainstorming session where ECCE delegates had the chance to share their ideas for the future of ECCE. During this session, the ECCE Delegate from Malta Jeanette Munoz Abela confirmed that the 71st ECCE General Meeting will be hosted in Malta by the Kamra-Tal-Periti and an official letter with suggested dates will be communicated to ECCE soon.

At the end of the meeting ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis officially closed the 69th ECCE General Meeting thanking everyone for their participation and addressing special thanks to the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro for this excellent organization and hospitality.

Photographs from the 69th ECCE General Meeting can be downloaded from the links below:

[69th ECCE General Meeting photographs](#)

The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to express its gratitude to the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro for the successful organization of the 69th ECCE General Meeting and their excellent hospitality.