

PRESS RELEASE

Athens, 14th October 2019

**70th ECCE General Meeting, 25th September 2019,
Lisbon, Portugal**



70th ECCE General Meeting participants

The 70th ECCE General Meeting was held on 25th September 2019, in Lisbon, Portugal hosted by the Portuguese Engineers Association (OEP - Ordem dos Engenheiros de Portugal). The 70th ECCE General Meeting was held in parallel with the [Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit 2019 \(CES2019\)](#) that was organized from 24 to 28 September 2019, at LNEC - The National Civil Engineering Laboratory.

During the five days of the CES2019 engineers from around the world were gathered in Lisbon to share knowledge, challenges and projects. This international event aimed to discuss, with a global and integrative approach, the main issues that currently affect the community of civil engineers, who seek solutions to new and also old challenges, in which its role will have a major impact, as climate change, food and water security, safety construction and all the other UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Simultaneously with the CES2019, Lisbon also hosted the World Council of Civil Engineers (WCCE), the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE), the European Council of Engineers Chambers (ECEC) and the Engineering Association of Mediterranean Countries (EAMC) General Assemblies.

The 70th ECCE General Meeting was very well attended by delegations from the majority of the ECCE Member organizations and it was chaired by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis.

This time, given the special circumstances, the structure of our meeting was slightly different. The CES2019 plenary session on Civil Engineering Heritage which was moderated by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis was integrated into the ECCE meeting agenda and this way all the delegates had the opportunity to attend this session. Later on, the official opening of the 70th ECCE General Meeting took place with speeches by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis and the OEP Bastonario Eng. Carlos Mineiro Aires who cordially thanked everyone for coming to Lisbon and for being part of and contributing to the success of the Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit and the ECCE General Meeting. Among the distinguished guests were WCCE Past President Emilio Colon, ECEC President Klaus Thurriedl and EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda. All of the invited guests had a short speech during the opening of the meeting.



From left to right: ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Andreas Brandner, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis, OEP Bastonario and WCCE President Carlos Mineiro Aires, ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev

the Engineers Chamber of Montenegro was presented and discussed. The Engineers Chamber of Montenegro submitted a letter to be addressed to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union supporting the adoption of the Directive on the protection of engineers' chambers. ECCE committed to support its members and will take the topic forward.



70th ECCE General Meeting participants

The [minutes of the 69th ECCE General Meeting](#), in Podgorica, Montenegro were unanimously approved. 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 until September and he presented the proposed ECCE Membership Fees for 2020 as well as the Budget for 2020. Both the Fees and the Budget were unanimously approved by the General Assembly. Then, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis presented the [ECCE Brief Activity Report June – September 2019](#) describing briefly the ECCE activities since our last meeting in May in Podgorica. After the ECCE activity report a topic that was submitted to the ECCE Executive Board by

Later on, a common session between the European Council of Civil Engineers and the World Council of Civil Engineers took place. On the opportunity of both organizations having their General Assemblies in Lisbon, such initiative was organized in order to bring the two organizations closer and to enhance the cooperation between them. During the common ECCE-WCCE session a number of initiatives and activities of both associations were presented. The presentation can be found below:

- [Civil Engineering: Gender perspective in Europe](#) by *Cristina Machado, WCCE Standing Committee Chair on Gender Equality*
- [Civil Engineering: Gender perspective in the Americas](#) by *Alejandra Fogel, Argentinian Representative on WCCE's Standing Committee on Gender Equality*

- [The need for integrating structural / seismic upgrade of existing buildings in parallel with energy efficiency improvements](#) by *Platonas Stylianou, ECCE Executive Board Member*
- [Ethics and professional practice](#) by *Emilio Colon, WCCE Past President*
- [Civil Engineering Big Data Primer](#) by *Jorge Emilio Abramian, WCCE President Elect*
- [WCCE's Water related initiatives](#) by *Teodoro Estrela Monreal, WCCE Standing Committee Chair on Water*
- [Appropriate regulation for enhancing global practice of civil engineering](#) by *José Francisco Saéz, ECCE Executive Board Member*



ExBo Member Platonas Stylianou during his presentation in the ECCE-WCCE common event



ExBo Member Jose Francisco Saez during his presentation in the ECCE-WCCE common event

During the ECCE-WCCE common event ExBo Member Platonas Stylianou delivered a presentation regarding the ECCE Position Paper “The need for Structural / Seismic Rehabilitation of Existing Buildings in parallel with Energy Efficiency Improvements”. The text of the one page Manifesto and the motto were agreed upon during the meeting. Now, after the finalization of the design part of the document the Manifesto will be broadly disseminated.

Next on the Agenda, it was a presentation by the ECCE President regarding the [Construction Industry news](#) when ECCE President informed the delegates regarding the latest news of the High Level Tripartite Forum on Construction 2020, the Thematic Group 1 “Stimulating investment in building renovation, infrastructure and innovation” and the European Construction Forum to which ECCE participates.

Later on, ECCE President presented the proposal on the amendment of the ECCE Articles of Association that was commonly agreed by the ECCE Executive Board the previous day and that was submitted to the General Assembly in written. The suggested proposals regarding the amendment of the Articles 1, 2 and 6 were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

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 in October 2018. He mentioned that 1.000 copies of the book “Notes on the history of civil engineering” will be reprinted after getting an International Standard Book Number (ISBN). Also, the 2nd edition of the book “Notes on the history of civil engineering” that will include contributions from the ECCE member countries’ history is being prepared. The materials are expected to be gathered until the end of the year and the elaboration and publishing of the book will be completed in 2020. Finally, he mentioned that ECCE is examining the possibility of reprinting the book 'A History of Civil Engineering’ by Hans Straub that was published in 1952 and that is a masterpiece of its kind. This possibility is being explored with the support and assistance of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE).



Signing of the INESCO Agreement
From left to right: WCCE President and OEP Bastonario Carlos Mineiro Aires, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis, OEP Vice President Fernando de Almeida Santos

After that, the Portuguese National Delegate Fernando de Almeida Santos presented the proposal about the establishment of an International Network of Civil Engineers on Safety Construction (INESCO). The founding organizations of INESCO would be the WCCE – World Council of Civil Engineers and ECCE – European Council of Civil Engineers, and the national full members that they represent. The proposal was unanimously accepted by the ECCE General Assembly and it was agreed that an Agreement will be signed between ECCE and WCCE in Lisbon. This Agreement was signed by the ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis and the WCCE President Carlos Mineiro Aires during the ECCE – WCCE Gala Dinner on 25th September 2019.

At the end of the session ECCE Delegate from Malta Jeanette Munoz Abela confirmed that the 71st ECCE General Meeting will be hosted in Malta by the Kamra-Tal-Periti during the second half of May 2020 in the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Kamra-Tal-Periti. The dates will be confirmed soon.

At the end of the meeting ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis officially closed the 70th ECCE General Meeting thanking everyone for their participation and addressing special thanks to the Portuguese Engineers Association for this excellent organization and hospitality.



Closing session of the CES2019. From left to right: Moderator Joao Palma-Ferreira, FEANI President Jose Vieira, WCCE President and OEP Bastonario Carlos Mineiro Aires, WFEO President Marlene Kanga, UPADI Vice President Diana Espinosa, ECCE President Aris Chatzidakis

The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to express its gratitude to the Portuguese Engineers Association for the successful organization of the 70th ECCE General Meeting and the Lisbon Civil Engineering Summit and their excellent hospitality.