

PRESS RELEASE

Athens, October 2017

66th ECCE General Meeting 4th October 2017, Vienna, Austria



66th ECCE General Meeting group photo

The [66th ECCE General Meeting](#) was held on 4 October 2017, in Vienna, Austria at the “[Haus der Ingenieure](#)” hosted by the Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants / Section for Chartered Engineering Consultants / Federal Expert Group for Civil Engineering. On 3 October, the ECCE Executive Board meeting was held.

The 66th ECCE General Meeting was very well attended with delegations from almost all of the

ECCE Member organizations. The meeting was chaired by the ECCE

Vice President / President Elect Aris Chatzidakis. The opening speech was made by the President of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants Christian Aulinger who welcomed all the participants and introduced to them the structure and functions of the Austrian Chamber. The ECCE General Secretary Maria Karanasiou read a letter on behalf of the ECCE Acting President Włodzimierz Szymczak who was not able to attend to this meeting and conveyed his message to all the participants.

Among the distinguished guests were WCCE President Alfonso Gonzalez, WCCE Past President Emilion Colon, EAMC President Adil Al Hadithi, and EAMC Secretary General Nicola Monda.

In the meeting, the [ECCE activity report June - September 2017](#) was presented by the ECCE Vice President / President Elect Aris Chatzidakis describing briefly the ECCE activities since our last meeting in June, in Antalya. The main activities of ECCE during this period of time were focused mainly on the preparation of the [3rd European Engineers Day](#), the organization of the “2018 European Year of Civil Engineers”, the finalization of the two Position Papers that had been elaborated over the past few months, as well as matters of internal organization and function.

During the 66th ECCE General Meeting ECCE’s position and ECCE Vice President / President Elect’s main opening remarks in the [3rd European Engineers Day](#) that was held the following day were discussed. Also, the progress regarding the organization of the [ECCE initiative “2018 European Year of Civil Engineers”](#) was presented by the Steering Committee for the 2018EYCE member Paul Coughlan (UK National Delegate). As part of the topic about the 2018EYCE, a [briefing on the ICE 200](#) (Institution of Civil Engineers’ 200th Anniversary) was delivered by Ingrid

Farmer (UK delegate). A Global Engineering Congress will be held in London on 22-26 October 2018 celebrating the bicentennial of the ICE, the 50th WFEO Anniversary, the Triennial with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, as well as the 68th ECCE General Meeting which will also be the closing event of the 2018EYCE.



President of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants Christian Aulinger

During the 66th ECCE General Meeting the first two ECCE Position Papers were adopted by the ECCE General Assembly. The [Position Paper on “Infrastructure and water management”](#) was prepared by George Demetriou from the Cyprus Council of Civil Engineers in collaboration with a technical committee which consists of water experts from Cyprus, Greece and Slovenia. The *Position Paper on “Appropriate regulation for the practice of civil engineering in Europe”* was prepared by Jose Francisco Saez Rubio from the Colegio de Ingenieros de Caminos, Canales y Puertos (Spain) in collaboration with ECCE Vice

President / President Elect Aris Chatzidakis from the Association of Civil Engineers of Greece. Both Position Papers will be widely disseminated in the following weeks. During this session the importance of the contribution of ECCE members with new proposals and ideas for Position Papers as well as for other deliverables and activities was highlighted. A number of ideas were discussed which will be submitted in written during the following weeks.

The ECCE Financial matters were also presented and discussed. ECCE Vice President / Treasurer Dimitar Natchev described the ECCE financial report until the end of September for the information of the members. He also presented the proposed ECCE Budget for 2018 which was unanimously accepted by the ECCE General Assembly. As a final point he presented the [ECCE Financial Rules](#) document which was prepared by him and approved by the ECCE Executive Board aiming to better regulate the finances related ExBo’s functions.

Another interesting point during the meeting was the presentation about the *STEM & Gender Assessment (SAGA) Project*, a global UNESCO project aimed at identifying and addressing gender gaps in STEM fields at all levels of education and research. This project proposal was presented by ExBo member and WCCE Executive Director Jose Francisco Saez Rubio. As civil engineers represent more than half of world population of all engineers worldwide, at national, regional and international level, UNESCO SAGA Team has offered WCCE’s Standing Committee on Women in Civil Engineering to contribute to such project by designing and carrying out this survey to collect accurate sex-disaggregated data on a specific objective of the STI GOL, the STI GOL 4.8 “Ensure gender equality in S&E professional certifications, in particular in engineering” in order to improve the measurement of the status of women and girls in engineering as an overall objective.



From left to right: ECCE General Secretary Maria Karanasiou, ECCE Vice President/ Treasurer Dimitar Natchev, Austrian Chamber President Christian Aulinger, ECCE Vice President/ President Elect Aris Chatzidakis, ECCE ExBo Member Andres Piirsalu, ECCE ExBo Member Jose Francisco Saez Rubio

Finally, the forthcoming ECCE General Meetings were discussed. The [67th ECCE General Meeting](#) will be held on 30 May 2018 – 2 June 2018, in Tallinn, Estonia. ExBo Member and Estonia National Delegate Andres Piirsalu delivered a presentation about the meeting that will be hosted by the

Estonian Association of Civil Engineers which is also going to be combined with an International Conference organized as part of the 2018 EYCE initiative. The 68th ECCE General Meeting will be held in London, during the week of 22-26 October 2018. To finish, an official proposal was submitted by ECCE Vice President / Treasurer Dimitar Natchev from the Union of Civil Engineers of Bulgaria to host the autumn ECCE General Meeting in 2019, in Bulgaria.

The European Council of Civil Engineers would like to express its gratitude to the Austrian Federal Chamber of Architects and Chartered Engineering Consultants for the successful organization of 66th ECCE General Meeting and their exceptional hospitality.