



AZIENDA NAZIONALE AUTONOMA
DELLE STRADE
(A. N. A. S.)

IL DIRETTORE GENERALE

Via Monzambano 10 - 00185 Roma

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141
Heribert Thul

Ministerialdirektor
Dr. Ing.e.h. Heribert Thul
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Dear Colleague,

it appears to-day that in many countries a new interest is arising about the problems connected with roads.

As a consequence of both the energetic and economic crisis, it became necessary to adopt new strategies for a better organization of the existing networks and for their maintenance, as well as for the setting-up of new programmes. All this can be done only through a quick exchange of views and information; somebody else's experience might become precious for the solution of extremely different problems.

Up to now, this has been achieved either through the normal bureaucratic ways, or thanks to the support of international associations.

The bureaucratic structures in the different countries are not always ready to give adequate answers within the very brief time requested, whilst, on the other hand, there are some general problems which can be deeply understood and met only by those persons occupying top places in the road organizations of the different countries; similarly, there exist some instructions which can only be given by the same persons - since the starting points have been deeply examined.

From these simple considerations comes the idea of putting the general Directors of the different Road Administrations in strict contact, thanks to a new international organization, which might be called "I.P.C.R.D." - International Permanent Committee of Road Directors.

Obviously, it should be a simple and smooth structure, grouping only and exclusively the Road General Dir-

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ectors of the different countries, so that the high-level information and perspectives may be exchanged.

Such organization's tasks should be:

- 1) promotion of a direct exchange of views among the heads of the road administrations, members of the Committee;
- 2) calling of periodical meetings, at a frequency to be fixed, in order to examine the different problems concerning road networks;
- 3) comparison of the different road policies in the different countries and organization of their trend, possibly univocal, aiming at their consistent development;
- 4) comparative investigation of the financing possibilities, and their terms and conditions.

Other points might, of course, be added within the frame of a statute, which shall be duly studied and fixed.

The new organization, whose permanent seat I would propose to be Rome, should be completely self-governing, which means that its modest running expenses should be sustained by the different member administrations, according to a financing plan to be agreed upon.

The seat should be offered either by the Italian Ministry of Public Works, or by A.N.A.S.

During the initial period, I would think it advisable to restrict such organization only to the European and some of the Mediterranean countries, under the understanding that - after a first successful trial - its door shall be wide open to whoever may have an interest to apply for admission.

I should be most grateful if you could let me have your early detailed comments on the matter, as well as whatever suggestion you may judge useful, in case you deem appropriate to entrust me with the starting of this initiative.

May I seize this opportunity to express to you my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Antonio Soreca
Director General