



Proposal to arrange a

European Road Transport Research Conference

(in the name of CEDR with the support of ERTRAC)

to be held in

Göteborg, Sweden, on June 12 – 16, 2006

prepared by

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Background

In February 2003 Messrs. *Rod Addis* and *Ivar Schacke* presented a proposal to initiate **Project GENE-SYS** with the aim to launch an annual European Road Research Conference (**ERRC**). According to the proposed work plan, conferences were scheduled for 2004, 2005 and 2006. It was anticipated that these were held the second week of June annually, creating a European mirror event to the TRB Annual Meetings in Washington, USA.

This proposal was presented to the **CEDR Governing Board** (former *Western European Road Directors – WERD*) at its meeting in Oslo on May 8 and 9, 2003. It was then decided to set up a *Management Committee*, which got the task to elaborate this proposal further. The work within this committee ended up in a *Note to WERD* of September 5, 2003. This note was then discussed at the **CEDR Governing Board Meeting** in Vienna on September 18, 2003. The discussion was then however closed without any conclusion made. Therefore this issue was raised again at the meeting of the **CEDR Executive Board** in Kittillä (Finland) on November 27, 2003. A variety of opinions, both positive and negative, were then expressed. Most countries clearly stated their position on the need for a limited (strategic) European conference on road research that might be enlarged at a later date. At the meeting it was decided to present these views to the Chairman of the **CEDR Governing Board**, Mr *Marc Lemlin*, and to enable him to investigate alternative ways of getting the conference off the ground.

Bearing this background in mind Mr. *Ingemar Skogö*, Director General of the *Swedish National Road Administration*, proposed to solve the key issue on how to take care of the financial risks by doing it in Sweden alone. Of course, the proposed conference in Göteborg 2006 then was in his mind. This initiative was presented by Mr. *Bo Henrikson* (the Swedish member of the **CEDR Executive Board**) to the **CEDR Advisory Group** at its meeting in Paris on January 29, 2004. This Swedish proposal was then indeed welcomed by Mr. *Marc Lemlin*, Chairman of the **CEDR Governing Board**.

This issue was moreover on the agenda at the **CEDR SG Road Research** meeting in Delft on January 21 and 22, 2004. **CEDR SG Road Research** then decided:

- to support a strategic level, smaller scale road research event in Brussels in 2005 and, in case the schedule does not allow for a CEDR arrangement, to use the FEHRL Road Research Meeting structure as the fall-back event for 2005,
- to propose that the Göteborg (Gothenburg) road research conference in 2006 be designated as the CEDR European Road Research Conference,
- to propose that this sub-group acts as the reference group for the programming of each CEDR event, but that specific scientific teams be formed to deal with sessions and presentations.

It was also decided in Delft by **CEDR Sub-Group Road Research** that

- Mr. *Hans Ingvarsson* will prepare the documentation of the Göteborg 2006 event,
- and Mr. *Govert Sweere* the documentation of the Brussels 2005 event for further CEDR decision-making.

CEDR SG Road Research underlined in Delft that the Brussels as well as the Göteborg events shall be fully inclusive, allowing for and inviting the contribution of other organisations and programmes such as OECD, JTRC, FERSI and COST.

Summing this situation up, this very proposal is formally written on behalf of **CEDR SG Road Research** as a consequence of what was decided in Delft on January 21 and 22, 2004. This proposal will be put forward to the **CEDR Executive Board** at its forthcoming meeting in Göteborg on March 15, 2004, as well as to the *European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC)* at its forthcoming meeting in Brussels on March 19, 2004.

Worth mentioning in this context is the outcome of a meeting in Stockholm on February 4, 2004, between Messrs *Ingemar Skogö* and *Per Eriksson*, the Directors General of the *Swedish National Road*

Administration and the *Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems*, respectively. They decided that both these governmental authorities jointly should formally arrange the proposed conference in Göteborg 2006 and together take the financial risks, although it will be a conference in the name of CEDR supported by the *European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC)*.

Introduction

Within the framework of the *European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC)* a European road transport **Vision** and **Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** for 2020 and beyond are under way. The entire **Vision** and **SRA** will be published in the autumn of 2004, describing the needed breakthrough technologies and research demand for a sustainable road transport system in 2020 bearing in mind that the road transport sector is a major contributor to the economy with an important societal mission.

At the same time the European Commission has stressed the importance of creating a common **European Research Area (ERA)** in the 6th Framework Programme. One of the instruments to achieve this is the ERA-NET scheme. This asks for cooperation and coordination of national or regional research and innovation activities (i.e. programmes).

Main theme

The main theme for the planned conference in Göteborg 2006 is the following:

Towards a European Research Area on Road Transportation

Aim

By arranging a conference in Göteborg 2006 a contribution will be made to reach the following **vision** for the future:

A European Research Area (ERA) on Road Transportation implementing the ERTRAC Strategic Research Agenda with CEDR as a recognized key stake-holder.

In doing so, CEDR has the following **mission**:

- To demonstrate CEDR willingness to support the European Commission in its long-term ambitions with respect to research and development on road transportation issues.
- To increase the visibility of CEDR as a key stake-holder within European road transportation.

The Göteborg conference in 2006 will hopefully prove to be not only an important meeting place for all stake-holders involved, but also an excellent opportunity for all to disseminate research results on a European scale. Probably, the need for similar events on a more regular basis will be demonstrated. The GENESYS proposal can perhaps then be reevaluated and restarted.

Scope

All aspects of road transportation will be covered, bearing in mind that it fulfils a major role in the European economy and society, involving a wide range of industries and services from vehicle manufacturers and suppliers to infrastructure builders, services, energy and research providers, public authorities, insurance and rental companies and many others, not to mention the road users.

Date and Venue

The conference will be held at the *Göteborg Convention Centre*, Göteborg, Sweden, on **June 12 – 16, 2006**.

For further information, see www.gcc.se and www.goteborg.com.

Programme Structure

Session 1 (Plenary)

The outcome of the work within the *European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC)* is presented, i.e. the **Vision**, the **Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** and its **Technical Annexes**.

Session 2 (Plenary)

The existing strategic research agendas in Europe are presented, both those of the CEDR members and other appropriate public or private funding bodies.

Those bodies who have research agendas in line with the *ERTRAC Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)* will be invited to make presentations.

Sessions 3 a to 3 e (Parallell)

Both the **ERTRAC Vision 2020** and the **Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** is organised around four main streams of actions corresponding to the vision and challenges. The planned sessions 3a to 3e, respectively will follow that approach, as follows:

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|--------------|--|
| • session 3a | Transport, Mobility & Infrastructure |
| • session 3b | Environment, Energy & Resources |
| • session 3c | Safety and Security |
| • Session 3d | Design and Production Systems (Car Technology) |
| • Session 3e | Design and Production Systems (Road Infrastructure) |

Transport, Mobility & Infrastructure

Environment, Energy & Resources

Safety & Security

Design and Production Systems (and enabling technologies)

In these sessions 3a to 3e, on-going and finalized research will be presented. These presentations will be based on call for papers, which are then reviewed with respect to both scientific quality and relevance to the *ERTRAC Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)*.

Session 4 (Plenary)

In this session, concluding remarks concerning the outcome of the conference will be presented by the conference organizers and representatives from the European Commission as well as *ERTRAC*.

Exhibition and Excursions

A commercial exhibition will be arranged as well as technical excursions.

Conference Management

The conference will be run with the *Swedish National Road Administration (Vägverket)* as the legal entity responsible for the event. On that background it is proposed that Mr. *Ingemar Skogö*, who is Director General for the *Swedish National Road Administration*, chairs the **Management Committee** to be set up by *CEDR* in collaboration with *ERTRAC*. Moreover it is proposed that Mr. *Per Eriksson*, who is Director General for the *Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA)* acts as Deputy Chairman, as this agency also takes financial risks.

As secretary in the *Management Committee* the Secretary General of *CEDR*, Mr. *Michel Egger*, is suggested to act.

Other suggested members of the Management Committee are the present Moderator of *CEDR*, Mr. *Marc Lemlin*, as well as the incoming moderators for 2005 and 2006, Messrs. *Olav Sjøfteland* and *Anathasios Costis*.

In order to strengthen the link to the *European Road Transport Research Advisory Council (ERTRAC)* it is appropriate to invite its chairman, Mr. *Rudi Kunze*, to be a member of the *Management Committee*.

Not only the link to *ERTRAC* ought to be strengthened but also the link to the *European Commission*. Therefore it is also proposed to invite Messrs. *Alfonso González-Finat* (DG TREN) and *Christos Tokomanis* (DG Research) to act as members of the *Management Committee*.

As it was decided by *CEDR Sub-Group Road Research* that the Brussels event 2005 and the Göteborg event 2006 should be fully inclusive, and that Mr. *Govert Sweere* had the responsibility to prepare the Brussels event 2005 for further *CEDR* decision-making, it is advisable to also invite him to be a member of the *Management Committee*. Thus, appropriate co-ordination between the different conferences in Brussels 2005 and Göteborg 2006 will be obtained.

After that the *Management Committee* is formally set up by the *CEDR Executive Board* and/or the *CEDR Governing Board*, this committee will take over the overall responsibility for the arrangement of the **European Road Transport Research Conference** to be held in **Göteborg** in June **2006**. This committee will then in turn have the mandate to set up the necessary sub-committees. These are at least two.

1. **Program Committee**, which has the responsibility for the conference program and its scientific both content and quality.
2. **Organizing Committee**, which has the responsibility for all practical arrangements, including the commercial exhibition and technical excursions.

It is anticipated that the members of *CEDR Sub-Group Road Research* will be members of the *Program Committee* and, if needed, this committee will be strengthened by some other *ERTRAC* members, who are not members of *CEDR Sub-Group Road Research*. This especially applies for *ERTRAC* members who are specialists in car technology.

To earn time, the Chairmen of both the *Program Committee* and the *Organizing Committee* ought to be appointed at the same time as the *Management Committee* is formally set up. This can probably be done at the meeting of the *CEDR Governing Board* in Genval, Belgium, on May 6–7, 2004.

When the *Management Committee* then has its first meeting it can set up both the *Program Committee* and the *Organizing Committee* based on preparations done by the already appointed sub-committee chairmen. These preparations must comprise both suggested members and terms of reference, which has to be approved by the *Management Committee*.

As chairman of the *Program Committee* it would be natural to appoint Mr. *Jukka Isotalo*, who is chairman of *CEDR Sub-Group Road Research*. However, he has announced his retirement, so this choice is perhaps not the most appropriate as one must look for some continuity until the conference takes place in Göteborg 2006. Therefore it is proposed that Mr. *Hans Ingvarsson*, Research Director at the Swedish National Road Administration is appointed chairman, bearing in mind that he is a member of both *CEDR Sub-Group Road Research* and *ERTRAC*.

In turn the *Program Committee* is foreseen to set up separate *Scientific Committees* under its governance. There must be one *Scientific Committee* for each session taking the responsibility for its content and quality. Thus, these committees will review proposed papers and presentations. The members of the *Program Committee* will among themselves distribute the task to chair the *Scientific Committees*. Except the chairmen, members of the *Scientific Committees* can be picked up from other organisations than *CEDR* or *ERTRAC*, provided that these organisations are co-sponsors of the conference.

As far as the *Organizing Committee* is concerned, one must remember that it will be primarily this committee which has to take the financial risks into consideration. Therefore the chairman of this committee ought to belong to the staff of the Swedish National Road Administration. Moreover the local commitment in Göteborg must be utilized. Therefore it is proposed to appoint Mr. *Per-Erik Winberg* as chairman, who is Director of the *Western Region* of the *Swedish National Road Administration*.

Co-sponsors

All organisations and associations that want to support the conference are invited to do so by being official co-sponsors. It is up to the *Management Committee* to decide whether or not an organisation or association is looked upon to be a co-sponsor or not.

If accepted as a co-sponsor, the actual organisation or association can nominate experts to serve in the different scientific committees. Another role of an official co-sponsor is to market the conference within its own organisation or association. Those organisations etc. expected to act as co-sponsors are among others the following: FEHRL, FERSI, ERTICO, PIARC, OECD-ECMT, ECTRI, POLIS, JTRC, COST IABSE, RILEM, CIB and ITA.

Need For Immediate Actions

To launch the preparations for the *European Road Transport Research Conference* to be held in **Göteborg 2006**, the following initial actions must be undertaken.

1. *CEDR Executive Board* makes a statement that it supports this proposal and accordingly proposes that the *CEDR Governing Board* sets up the *Management Committee*. At the same time necessary mandates must be given to this committee to make it possible to take the overall responsibility to both prepare and then run the conference in Göteborg 2006.
2. *ERTRAC* approves to support *CEDR* in arranging the conference in Göteborg 2006. Hopefully *ERTRAC* also allows the use of its logo beside that of *CEDR*.

These two key actions must be finalized not later than the mid of May 2004 in order to make it possible to have the first meeting with the *Management Committee* before the autumn of 2004.