

CEDR
The Chairman

An urgent note on ERRC for the Governing Board of CEDR
for their immediate reaction

Dear Colleagues,

I write to you concerning ERRC, which we discussed briefly during our meeting in Vienna. It is my impression that the issue was not fully dealt with, due to the limited time devoted to the item. This may be why the Moderator closed the discussion, noting that no decision could be reached.

As a member of the Management Committee for the project, I now know much more about its aims and objectives; in my view, ERRC offers the European road sector a unique opportunity for networking and knowledge transfer, both of which are now strongly supported by the Commission. The benefits that will arise from interaction between researchers, practitioners and administrators, working in the public and private sectors, will be very great, and will allow us to continue to serve our customers and ministers well in the future.

It is my firm impression that we as CEDR have supported the concept of ERRC, and that only its financial aspects remain to be resolved. It would be a great shame, therefore, if many years of discussion and preparation were to be lost at this crucial moment.

Listening to the discussions in Madrid, Oslo and now Vienna, it is clear that only Austria has stated that it would be unable to contribute to the financing of ERRC. It is also the case that Model 2 was the preferred option for dealing with CEDR member contributions. Comments from the UK in Vienna which were of a more technical nature, and those from Germany referring to language issues, are both, I feel, relatively easily dealt with. The Danish view on paying the contribution by means of an advanced delegate participation fee is also something that I believe can be resolved.

To recapitulate, therefore, we as CEDR members are asked to contribute to the initial funding of ERRC as follows:

		<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Small countries:	Iceland, Luxembourg;	4300€	2700€
Medium countries:	all other countries;	17200€	10600€
Large countries:	France, Germany, Italy Spain, UK;	34400€	21200€

If we are to succeed with the Conferences in 2005 (Brussels), 2006 (Gothenburg), and 2007 (Brussels) as planned, then important decisions concerning the logistics and

staffing need to be taken very soon. In order to reach those decisions, of course, a secure funding stream needs to be established, and this is my main purpose in writing to you.

Given the opportunities presented by the European Research Area, contact has been made with DG RTD, who has been very encouraging about the possibility of making a proposal for a Specific Support Action that would allow the EC to contribute to ERRC. We cannot be confident about the success of such an application, and in any event, it seems unlikely that any contribution from this source would be available before 2005. Nevertheless, this is a possibility we can and will pursue.

Some CEDR members have raised the possibility that the project will be over-funded, by reason of the income that will be generated from Conference registration fees and exhibitor income. At the beginning of the project, of course, this will not be the case, though the Management Committee recognises that later, in an optimistic scenario, or with a contribution from the EC, it could arise. I would like to reassure you that if this is the case, steps will be taken to refund any surplus to the initial contributors to the project, in proportion to their contribution. An alternative solution could be to provision CEDR general account in anticipation of further activities. Indeed, it is possible that the second part of contributions from CEDR members in 2005 may be significantly reduced, or unnecessary.

On the basis of the foregoing, therefore, I would like to put several questions to you in the form of options, the answers to which will determine how the Management Committee proceeds. In answering these questions, I would ask you to keep in mind the broad agreement we reached that ERRC should go ahead, as well as the existing financial commitments made by several Directors. More importantly, I would remind you once again of the benefits to be gained from ERRC and project GENESIS.

My questions to you are set out on the attached page. Please complete, with any other comments you wish to make, and return them directly to me. Bearing in mind the urgency of the situation, you may reply by e-mail or fax, of course, to:

mlemlin@met.wallonie.be

or to +32 81 77 36 66

I would very much appreciate your reply by 7th October 2003 at the latest.

I very much look forward to hearing from you, and to reaching a positive result that will ensure the success of ERRC. If we are unable to establish a satisfactory funding for the project at this early stage, I will discuss the matter with the CEDR Advisory Group, and provide their advice to the ERRC Management Committee.

Yours sincerely,

M Lemlin
Chairman
CEDR

To the members of CEDR:

On the matter of ERRC, and the proposed funding according to Model 2, as agreed, please select one of the following options:

- | | Yes | No |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I support the ERRC initiative and will financially support it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I support the initiative, but with a different contribution, namely.....€ in 2004, and€ in 2005. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I support the initiative but am unable to provide all of the financial support requested. I will seek other funding sources in my country, in order to reach the requested sum. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I do not support the initiative. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |