



**Mr. Olav Sjøfteland**  
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**Subject: CEDR event TRA 2008 in Slovenia**

Ljubljana, 30.06.2005

Dear Mr. Sjøfteland,

The Directorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Roads (DRSC) has been following very carefully and with great interest the development of the Strategic Research Agenda. We are glad to see, that also CEDR, where we have been accepted in the membership, has gained a much stronger position on the European research scene, then it was before. Although we are not very long in the membership of the organisation that you are presiding, we have noticed the amazing size of your personal contribution and excellent work in this sense. We appreciate it and we would like to congratulate you on that.

So far we have followed with strong sympathy the development of the idea and the organization of a conference, the Transport Research Arena (TRA), which will be now held for the first time in Goeteborg in 2006. The recent presentation of FEHRL at the Slovene Road Congress last year was extremely well received also among our researchers. There is now much momentum among them to support these activities. As you have maybe noticed, our representatives were very active in all areas of the road transport research for last 15 years. That's why we feel that Slovenia is now also ready, willing and capable to host one of the large next events in the field of European Road Transport Research.

DRSC has been in this sense closely following the intentions, already expressed by the Slovenian National Building and Civil Engineering Institute (ZAG Ljubljana), to organise such an event in 2008. We are informed, that as a first step, their expression of interest had already been sent to ERTRAC, which has so far supported Ljubljana as a possible venue of TRA 2008.

According to all previously said, DRSC is endorsing the local pre-organising group which was established to earn approbation of the main organisers and the local community and with that to make the best of local resources for the TRA meeting itself and for the pre- and post- event activities. All this of course with the supposition, that our candidacy will be accepted by all the relevant actors on the EU road research scene.

Allow me please to inform you, that our Ministry of Transport fully supports this actions. This is for us very important, but there are also some other backgrounds that may be in favour to such an idea. One is most certainly the fact, that in 2008, Slovenia will hold the Presidency of the European Union. Secondly, in connection with this, there is also a fact, that the acting European Commissioner for Science and Research is from our country and will probably do his best to support the success of such an event, while he is still holding his position. These facts can be undoubtedly also very good opportunities for overall European road research community to raise the profile of the road transport sector in Europe in general.

Dear Mr.Softeland, allow me please, to ask you with this letter for your suggestions regarding our initiative and if possible for your support. With your help we would like to obtain also the CEDR's support to organise the TRA 2008 in June 2008 in Slovenia.

Sincerely yours

Vili Žavrlan

Director of the Directorate



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