



## IRF ADVOCATES FOR USE OF PPPS

***Following its own successful conference dedicated to PPPs, the IRF spoke at a PPP conference in Vienna, as a strong advocate for private sector involvement in road financing and management.***

### **PPPs a possibility for eastern Europe**

Addressing a conference on the use of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in central and eastern Europe, Ansgar Kauf, IRF Director of Programmes and Policy advocated for the involvement of the private sector in road financing and management, pointing to positive experience from east and west Europe.

Kauf presented the global trend of increased private sector involvement in the financing and management of road infrastructure as well as a growing tendency towards the introduction of direct user charges through tolls. Kauf highlighted that the role of the public road administrator is changing from that of financier

and manager of the network to that of regulator and contract manager

A number of IRF members also participated in the conference; Michael Staincu of Search Corporation presented the case of Romania where there has been deadlock over the development of PPPs for several years, although the situation is now improving.

During the conference Kauf spoke to a number of major players in PPPs, who are interested in the IRF's activities in the field and have expressed an interest in IRF membership.

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### **IRF continues commitment to south east Europe**

Continuing its commitment to improving road infrastructure in south east Europe, the IRF participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Ministers Meeting of the SEE Transport Observatory (SEETO), on 10 November in Skopje, Macedonia. The initiative, established by the European Commission, aims to promote the development and integration of the region's transport infrastructure.

During the meeting, Tony Pearce, IRF Director General Geneva/Brussels made a critical evaluation of the observatory's current policy bias towards rail transport and stressed the need to develop the region's road networks to



support economic growth in the region.

Whilst in Macedonia, Pearce also took the opportunity to meet IRF members, the Ministry of Transport and Communications and Fund for National and Regional Roads.

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### **IRF develops further links with the Black Sea region**

Attending a meeting of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Transport Working Group, Tony Pearce spoke about how the IRF could support the development of road infrastructure in the region.

Pearce also visited Azerbaijan, where support for IRF activities in the Black Sea region is

strong. In meetings with Deputy Minister of Transport Mr Musa Panahov, and the national road construction company *Yolnegliyyatservis* the country's road development plans were discussed. Serving as a strategic north-south corridor between Russia and the Gulf, several international funding agencies are investing in road projects in Azerbaijan.

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## IRF supports AVTODOREXPO

As a supporter of the Ukraine's major road exhibition, Avtodorexpo, the IRF participated in the exhibition on 22-24 November. IRF's Maria Galewska met a number of companies based in the country and discussed the activities of the IRF. The accompanying conference focused on the introduction of new technologies and management methods to improve the quality of road planning, building and exploitation in Ukraine. With this objective the country is interested in the activities of the IRF and its international perspective.



Galewska also took the opportunity to meet Mr. Gregory Glinesky, Deputy Chairman of Ukravtodor, the State Road Administration. Ukravtodor was represented at a recent IRF

conference in Bratislava and is keen to learn from international best practice and attract foreign companies to help improve roads in Ukraine.

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## IRF co-organises Chinese congress

China's 2<sup>nd</sup> Road Maintenance Congress, co-organized by the IRF, was held in Hangzhou on 23-24 November. The congress addressed the benefits of using advanced materials and techniques to ensure the quality of China's rapidly expanding road network.

road maintenance and the use of long-term performance based contracts, presenting best practice examples.

Addressing the conference, IRF High Representative Wim Westerhuis, highlighted the merits of private sector participation in

The IRF continues to work with its partners in China to facilitate the transfer of best practice technology and management practices and support the development of the country's road network.

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## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that the IRF acknowledges the passing of one of its greatest supporters. Monsieur Jean Biron, Honorary Treasurer of the IRF Geneva Office, died in Paris on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 2005, at the age of 98. Jean Biron was a driving force in the founding of the IRF Paris office back in 1949, and later in the merging process of the Paris and London offices in 1964, into what now is the IRF Geneva office. He was an active member of the IRF Board of Directors and

Executive Committee for more than 25 years, and for most of that time Treasurer of the organization. His enthusiasm, drive and dedication greatly contributed to the positioning of the IRF as a force in the development of roads, especially in Europe and Africa. Jean Biron maintained a keen interest in the fortunes of the IRF throughout his years of retirement. May Jean Biron rest in peace.

**For details of IRF events see [www.irfnet.org](http://www.irfnet.org)**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Geneva board approves IRF-ERF merger**

A key topic of the IRF Geneva board meeting, held in Istanbul on 1 December, was a proposal to integrate the European Union Road Federation (ERF) into the IRF structure. The board unanimously approved the proposal for the ERF to become the IRF Brussels programme centre and operate as an integrated part of the global organization. Actions to implement this decision will be taken in the new year and further details will be reported.

During the meeting, the IRF secretariat also reported on activities carried out in 2005 and

introduced the forward programme of events and initiatives planned in 2006. The results of a policy committee headed by Patrick Lepercq were also presented. The committee is producing a policy document, which will be finalized early 2006. The document which covers a range of issues will form the basis for future IRF programmes and initiatives.

The IRF would like to thank the Turkish Road Association and Mak-Yol for their support in organizing and hosting the IRF board meeting.

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## FORTHCOMING IRF EVENTS

### **IRF Executive Seminar on Roadway Safety**

Curacao, Netherlands Antilles – 9-13 January 2006 (*new date*)

*A safety training seminar designed to help senior road executives to reduce road deaths in their countries.*

- Contact: Scott Pearce [spearce@internationalroadfederation.org](mailto:spearce@internationalroadfederation.org)

### **Middle East Regional Conference— *Roads for the future: smart and safe***

Abu Dhabi, UAE – 12-14 March 2006

*IRF conference looking at developing first class road infrastructure to be held in conjunction with ROADEX 2006.*

- Contact: Sibylle Rupprecht [srupprecht@irfnet.org](mailto:srupprecht@irfnet.org) or Magid Elabyad [melabyad@internationalroadfederation.org](mailto:melabyad@internationalroadfederation.org)

### **Regional Conference for India— *Business & environment for future road development in India***

New Delhi, India – 20-21 March 2006

*IRF conference on road infrastructure development in India, to be held in conjunction with the BMCT Exhibition.*

- Contact: Sibylle Rupprecht [srupprecht@irfnet.org](mailto:srupprecht@irfnet.org)

### **European Traffic Safety Conference**

Amsterdam, Netherlands – 5 April 2006

*The IRF will hold a conference dedicated to road safety in conjunction with the Intertraffic Amsterdam exhibition. The conference will be preceded by the presentation of the inaugural IRF European Road Safety Award.*

- Contact: Sibylle Rupprecht [srupprecht@irfnet.org](mailto:srupprecht@irfnet.org)

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