



International Road Federation

Geneva

NEWSFLASH - 19 February 2007

"There is no silver bullet. There are lots of bullets. Fire them!"

Patrick Oliva used these words to describe the necessary technological response to environmental challenges, at the highly successful first IRF "Roads & the Environment" Conference in Geneva, February 5-6

Under the Presidency of Jean Beauverd (Colas Switzerland) more than 140 experts and professionals debated the issues. The event had been given topicality by the latest IPCC report - particularly by study of the effects of man-made CO2 and methane emissions. The Conference looked at all aspects of roads and the environment - from network planning and the natural and human habitat, through road construction, individual mobility, congestion & pollution, road users, noise and "end-of-life", to roads as places of cohabitation.



Praise for Environment Conference ...

"I congratulate you on the IRF Conference quality... I found it useful to be exposed to major private companies' perspectives and advanced initiatives..."
Maryvonne Plessis-Fraissard, World Bank, Washington D.C.

"Excellent event ... we look forward to participating in future IRF activities centred around the environment and climate change ..."
Chris Fry and Martin Lamb, Transport Research Laboratory, UK

"The IRF Conference on 'Roads and the Environment' was very interesting and beneficial to me. The presentations represented a wide-range of views; I am glad I could come."
Fuad Rihani, Saudi Bin Laden Group, Saudi Arabia



As announced by Jean Beauverd at the close of the Conference, an **IRF Working Group on the Environment** will be set up. This Group will organise seminars to study critical topics in greater depth.

Conference attendees will shortly receive the Conference proceedings. Later, an **"IRF Special Report"** with text, charts, diagrams and photos, will provide an extended summary.

From the Executive Committee

Geneva Programme Centre office - Changes, Departures, Arrivals & Congratulations ...

Changes ...

The Executive Committee has decided, reluctantly, to reduce the role of **Tony Pearce**, Director General GPC, within the IRF. Tony has done a tremendous job for the Federation but has been obliged to battle valiantly, in his typical fashion, with health problems during the past year. Happily, he is recovering well - and we hope that within a few months he will once again be in full health.

Simultaneously, the Committee want to aid his recovery *and* retain his unique services. So Tony will work as a consultant to the IRF with the immediate mandate to help with the successful organisation of the 1st Black Sea & 4th Silk Road Conference, to be held in Istanbul, 14-16 May 2007.

Sibylle Rupprecht, who filled in for Tony as Deputy DG during his absence, is **Acting Director General, GPC**. Sibylle joined IRF at the start of 2005 as Director of Membership and manager of personnel, administration and finance.



Sibylle started her professional career at Credit Suisse, followed by a senior position at Hertz. In 1990 she created her own specialist firm for management consultancy, strategic planning, financial management, fundraising and political lobbying. During that time, she worked with Tony Pearce on the IRF Eurovia project - the European Motorway Network.

During 1998-2004, Sibylle had a spell at Korn/Ferry International as a head hunter, specialising in Financial Services and Non-Profit Organisations / Government posts. Swiss-German in origin, she has a banking degree and a post-graduate diploma in not-for-profit management from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. Fluent in German, Swiss-German, English and French, she has lived in Geneva for 25 years.

Departures ...

It is not unusual for young professionals to change jobs to further their careers. Thus, our thanks and best wishes for the future accompany two such people who left IRF in December 2006. Their tenure was brief, but their contribution considerable. They are **Emma Clarke** and **Maria Galewska**.

Emma was a communications specialist. But she also monitored various EU policies and managed the Brussels office competently. She had a large organisational rôle in the Conference organised by ERF in November 2006. Emma has decided that the next step in her career lies in France.

Maria worked as a European Affairs Co-ordinator on EU institutions; on membership relations with Eastern Europe, and on PPP's. Many members met her at conferences, including that of the ERF in November 2006, and will remember her sunny personality.

A gap of a different nature in IRF's collective experience, and one which is receiving urgent attention, is created by the departure of **Ansgar Kauf**, by mutual agreement between himself and the Federation.

During almost 10 years, Ansgar specialised in PPP's, in EU issues, conferences, road programmes, and UN issues. His broad range of interests speaks of his potential for research, bringing a wide range of theory to interpretation of trends in the road industry. He was always willing to share his knowledge and expertise with members.

Arrivals ...



In December 2006 the communications spot was filled by **Tim Goodyear**, who was glad of the chance to consult with Emma Clarke. Tim spent 30 years in the aviation industry - the last 12 of those in Corporate

Communications with IATA, where he talked with journalists, wrote speeches for various Directors General, press releases, magazine articles and the Association's annual report.

Congratulations ...

At a recent Congress which also marked the 15th. anniversary of the **Road and Transportation Research Association of Slovenia (DRC)**, IRF veteran **Wim Westerhuis** was honoured with the following public announcement:

Today we have the pleasant duty to thank Mr. Maurits Wim Westerhuis for his great support and encouragement in road network development and of the DRC, particularly at the time when Slovenia attained independence 15 years ago. Mr. Westerhuis, from the Netherlands and with the soul of a great cosmopolitan, was General Manager of the International Road Federation in Geneva from 1989 to 2004. Today he is the High Representative of this organisation.

At that complicated time, 15 years ago, the IRF recognised Slovenia as an independent country before everybody else did. Wim was a regular speaker and honorary sponsor at our road congresses. His efforts for worldwide progress on roads gave us confidence and encouragement in our decisions. We thank him with a small gift. It is a bronze sculpture by the academic sculptor Peter Cerne. We hope that Wim and ourselves may meet many times during our future endeavours for better road networks.

Matija Vilhar (DRC)

Upcoming Events

1st Black Sea Ring & 4th Silk Road Conference

May 14-16, 2007

Istanbul, Turkey

The conference will be held in close collaboration with the BSEC and the TRACECA initiative and will look closely at the identification of feasible road projects. Connecting the Silk Road to the Black Sea Ring is the special contribution of this conference to the regional development debate.

For Conference brochure & Registration form, go to:

<http://irfnet.org/cms/pages/en/viewpage.asp>

IRF Roadway Safety Solutions Seminars

April 11-12, 2007

Doha, Qatar

These IRF Seminars are designed to help road authorities understand how interactions between the driver, vehicle and road can prevent accidents or reduce their severity.

Go to: <http://irfnews.org/qatar/introduction.htm>

International Road Federation
2, chemin de Blandonnet
1214 Vernier/Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 306 02 60
Email: srupprecht@irfnet.org
www.irfnet.org