

SAFETY IN ROAD TUNNELS

Tuesday 21 October 2003 (8.30 – 12.00 a.m.)

INTRODUCTORY REPORT

This special session is coorganised by the PIARC Technical Committee on Road Tunnel Operation (C5), the United Nations Organisation (Economic Commission for Europe – UN ECE), the European Commission (Directorate General for Energy and Transport – DG TREN – and Directorate General for Research – DG RTD), and the International Tunnelling Association (ITA).

In the aftermath of the catastrophic fires which have occurred in European road tunnels in the last few years (Mont Blanc – 1999, Tauern – 1999, St Gotthard – 2001), earlier work on road tunnel safety has been reviewed and a number of new initiatives launched at national, European and international level. The aim of this session is to disseminate information on the numerous ongoing activities and discuss their current status, to ensure common understanding, improve co-ordination and direction, and to bring together policy makers and technical experts to discuss the way forward.

Representatives of all the coorganisers, as well as NFPA International and the International Technical Committee for the Prevention and Extinction of Fire (CTIF) will present and discuss their current approaches. They will form a panel to lead a debate with the audience to address the following questions:

- How can we integrate all aspects of road tunnel safety (operations, infrastructure and vehicles) and all of those involved (users, operators, designers, emergency services), taking the best of the multidisciplinary points of view and skills, in an environment of restricted funding?
- Which research projects and actions do we need at international level and what international recommendations, standards, legislation would need to be put in place?

PART I - AIMS AND RESULTS OF CURRENT INITIATIVES		Chairman: J. Capel-Ferrer (UN)
5 min	Introduction	by session Chairman
10 min	The logics behind the puzzle (Historical background and consistency of the various initiatives)	D. Lacroix (PIARC C5)
15 min	European policy on road tunnel safety (including legislation under preparation)	D. Theologitis (EC DG TREN)
15 min	The role of the United Nations in improving tunnel safety	J. Capel-Ferrer (UN)
15 min	Point of view of fire-fighters?	W. Egger (CTIF)
15 min	Human behaviour as a main factor of safety (Joint results of PIARC, UN ECE and EC)	B. Thamm (PIARC C5)
15 min	Questions to speakers	
30 min	Coffee break	
15 min	ITA activities on tunnel safety, with special focus on co-operation with PIARC on resistance to fire of road tunnel structures	A. Haack (ITA)
15 min	Tunnel safety-related research projects and networks funded by the European Commission	Representative of UPTUN (and/or FIT)
15 min	Topic to be presented by NFPA (related to standardisation?)	J. Lake
PART II - PANEL DISCUSSION		Moderator: D. Lacroix
45 min	Panel members: Representatives of PIARC, UN ECE, EC TREN, UPTUN (and/or FIT), ITA, NFPA, CTIF	

For more information, please refer to the Introductory Report to the C5 Plenary Session.