



Concessionaires share their best practices

and are ready to meet the future challenges of EU mobility

Oslo welcomed the 38th edition of the ASECAP Annual Study and Information Days on 31 May – 02 June gathering up to 300 transport leaders, experts and high level representatives of European Institutions. The success of the congress has proved once again that PPP schemes and road concessions offer the best model to ensure smart, cleaner and safer roads through the European Union.

Jointly organized by ASECAP and Norvegfinans, the event has delivered a strong message assessing the concessionaires' readiness and willingness to contribute to the shaping of sustainable policies for efficient EU mobility solutions. This approach has been welcomed and supported by the EU policy makers who attended this event.

Among several issues at stake, all relevant stakeholders together with Director Grillo-Pasquarelli (European Commission DG MOVE) and national ministries representatives were invited to discuss the future of the **European Electronic Toll Service (EETS)** and the sensitive question on how to bridge the gap between the provisions defined in the Decision 2009/750 and their effective implementation into the different market realities. ASECAP Secretary General, K. Dionelis, highlighted that it is important "*not only to talk to each other but mainly to listen to each other; a dialogue needs one to talk and another to listen.*"

On **ITS**, ASECAP reiterated its strong support to the EU political commitment in terms of ITS deployment policies and to the forthcoming Directive on Intelligent Transport Systems to be adopted shortly. However, ASECAP reminded to policy-makers that all choices must be driven by sound business models and by a concrete assessment of users needs. Toll concessionaires proved that perfect business cases exist in the tolling sector and therefore reminded that they are ready to offer their field expertise and knowledge for a successful deployment of these systems. A. E. Jensen, rapporteur on the ITS Directive for the Transport Committee of the European Parliament, praised the role played by the concessions' industry that has at its disposal large resources to invest in this field.

The congress was also the occasion for road operators to underline once again that **safety and environment protection** are already concrete ingredients in their daily infrastructure management. ASECAP members recalled that they do operate the most and qualitatively best part of the TENs roads with the highest safety and green performances thanks to the resources and human skills devoted through research and implementation. This has been demonstrated through many presentations on specific projects implemented by ASECAP members and reinforced by Mrs Tsingou's – EIB Director General – call in support of PPP schemes to solve the funding gap for infrastructure projects in Europe.

Finally, in several technical and interactive sessions, close to 50 speakers from the conceded world presented best practices and brainstormed on innovative approaches in terms of tolling technologies, green infrastructures, safety operations and ITS applications

ASECAP invited all the stakeholders to meet again next year for the 39th edition of the ASECAP Days that will be organized for the first time in Brussels (29-31 May 2011), at the heart of the EU decision-making process.