

# PPRS Paris 2015 : assessment and perspectives

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The first Pavement Preservation and Recycling Summit, PPRS 2015, was held in Paris at the Palais des Congrès from 23 to 25 February 2015. Organised on the initiative of the IBEF, AEMA, ARRA, ISSA and FP2<sup>(1)</sup>, with the active participation of the World Road Association (PIARC), this event gathered more than a thousand participants from 60 countries.



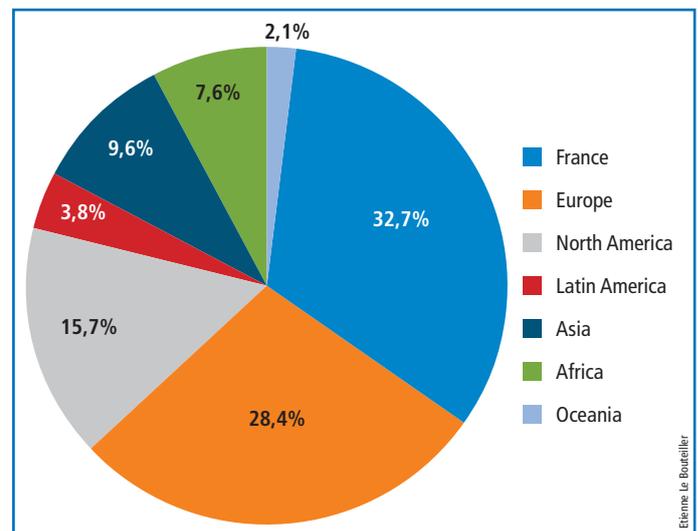
Road in the Ouarzazate region (Morocco)

## 3 days, 19 sessions, 113 speakers...

The aim of the Summit was to draw attention to the fact that the significant investments made in the past 50 years to provide our countries with modern highway infrastructures were not coupled with resources and management methods ensuring the sustainability of these assets.

During these three days, in connection with 19 sessions and two roundtables, 113 invited speakers spoke on the subject of road asset management, with emphasis on feedback from experience and the most innovative aspects. Discussions included the social and economic impacts of insufficient maintenance, the state of the art in maintenance techniques, innovative approaches to road network condition surveying, network management and project contracting.

An exposition bringing together over 50 shows on 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> made it possible to extend exchanges.



Graph 1  
Regions of origin of PPRS Paris 2015 participants

<sup>(1)</sup> International Bitumen Emulsion Federation (IBEF), Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association (AEMA) (United States), Asphalt Reclaiming and Recycling Association (ARRA) (United States), International Slurry Surfacing Association (ISSA), Foundation for Pavement Preservation (FP2) (United States)

Among the invited speakers, mention will be made in particular of Bruno Cavagné, chairman of France's National Public Works Federation (FNTP), Christopher Chope, deputy of the Chamber of Communes and chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Highways, Michael Cramer, deputy of the European Parliament and chairman of the Transport Committee, Greg Cohen, chairman of the American Highway Users Alliance, King Gee, director of Engineering and Technical Services for the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Andrew Mc Kellar, secretary general for Mobility of the International Automobile Federation (FIA), Maxime Picat, Peugeot brand CEO, Christophe Saintillan, representing the Secretary of State in charge of Transport, the Sea and Fishing, and Jacques Tavernier, chairman of the Union of French Road Industry Associations (Usirf).

### Road maintenance: a world issue

A broad convergence of views was observed between the stakeholders present, whether users or project owners, addressing the subject head-on. This consensus embraces industrialised and well as emerging countries: the issues are of worldwide concern.

In addition to economic and technical aspects, social and societal issues have been found to be fundamental in the decision-making process. Solutions exist for dealing with the significant reduction in public budgetary allocations and the deteriorating level of road network service, which compromises social and economic development. The will to act must hence be promoted. Mobility and sustainable development depend on it.

In his closing speech, Jean-François Corté, secretary general of the PIARC and chairman of the PPRS Paris 2015, pointed out the necessity of *"convincing the public opinion, users, the media and politicians, not in the name of a lobby of the road, but by stressing the socio-economic benefits afforded by the road. Good communication will have a direct impact on the decision-making process, not only in terms of budget allocations but especially in terms of the acceptance of funding programmes and construction and rehabilitation programmes."*

### Main lessons

The lessons learnt could be summarized as follows:

- Improving diagnostic tools for a better understanding of the condition of the network and a better use of the resources : towards asset management.

- Working on more sustainable roads: targeting 30 or 40 years lifespan, to optimize return on investment.
- Developing and promoting the use of reliable and shared tools for assessing the environmental impact of road construction and maintenance.
- Embarking the public towards the need of a service-based financial contribution from the road users.
- Interacting with all stakeholders, especially road users.
- Promoting the acceptability of roads.
- Innovating and proposing new business models.
- Keeping technical innovation on the road forward.
- Enlarging the pond: car industry, IT, agro & chemical industry.
- Creating and promoting interchange platforms (local, national, international) and cross-fertilization.



E. Le Bouteiller, J.-F. Corté and J.-C. Roffé, steering committee of PPRS

### What future?

ERF, IBEF and USIRF have already expressed their interest in promoting the next event based on the expectations of the 2015 participants as well as the sponsors and exhibitors.

Keeping that momentum will bring us to propose a new PPRS within 3 or 4 years.

The main presentations of the PPRS Paris 2015 are available and can be downloaded from the site [www.pprsparis2015.com](http://www.pprsparis2015.com) and consulted via a Youtube channel devoted to the event:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCYDOGicbwJM16fUFmG10aPw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYDOGicbwJM16fUFmG10aPw). ■