

Theme

Rail & City CODE-ATHENS

Greece is facing great challenges. The present crisis cuts a deep gash in the country's history, but also offers new opportunities. However, to achieve a sustainable path of development, investments in the national infrastructure are especially important. A prime example is improving the railway connections in the triangle of Thessaloniki, Athens and Patras.

TRIANGLE PATHE (Patras, Athens, Thessaloniki)

Direct, fast and reliable railway connections are strategic projects of the highest priority. It is not only vital for the cities involved, it carries both national and European importance. The Triangle is part of the core network of the trans-European network and will form a city network that connects the three most important Greek metropolitan regions of Thessaloniki, Athens and Patras. More than half of the 11 million inhabitants of Greece are living in its catchment area.

Ultimately, the Triangle connections will contribute to closing the East/West divide in the highperformance transport infrastructure that has existed in Greece for too long now and will also connect Patras, as Greece's western gate, with its hinterland. Travel time between Patras and Athens will be reduced to well under two hours and will offer attractive opportunities for commuter traffic in the catchment area of both metropolitan regions. In addition, travel times between Athens and Thessaloniki could be reduced from nearly six hours to less than four hours. Both improvements are suitable and sustainable alternatives to travelling by car, bus or plane.

STATHMOS LARISSIS, A Strategic Node

Athens' central railway station Stathmos Larissis is the main node of this railway network. It is also the southern gateway to the European Orient/East-Med Corridor, i.e. Hamburg-Athens. But, the station should be upgraded to more than an eight-track railway infrastructure with an electrified connection to SKA (the northern gateway of Athens) and the passenger harbour of Piraeus. The link from SKA via Stathmos Larissis to Piraeus forms a corridor that has strategic importance for the future development of Athens.

There are several reasons why the upgrade of the Athens' central station has been put on hold. Along the corridor, there are existing brownfield sites that have potential as opportunities for the transformation and renewal of important areas of the City of Athens. Thus, the urban fabric in the catchment area of Stathmos Larissis needs to be improved. Furthermore, current accessibility

to the main station area is insufficient for a railway network node of national and European importance.

The planning Chairs of ETH Zurich, the Technical University of Athens and the University of Patras have therefore started an initiative to gather new ideas for possible solutions, so to stimulate the integrated development of both city and railway in Athens in the longer perspective. As shown by some examples from other European metropolitan areas in Germany, Spain, Austria and Switzerland integrated railway and urban development can serve as an engine for strategic investments, often realized in public-private partnerships.

The presence of the international symposium Rail&City should stimulate public debate on the challenging situation in Athens. Participants from Berlin, Madrid, Vienna and Zurich who are involved in similar projects will share the challenges, possibilities and results of Rail&City projects and discuss their experiences with the responsible actors from Athens.

This exchange should provide a solid basis for a better understanding of the integrated planning approach, which could make a breakthrough for any innovative solutions accepted by the inhabitants, the politicians and the various institutions and actors that will have to be involved.

In June 2015, a joint seminar week of students from ETH Zurich and students from the National Technical University of Athens and the University of Patras will research new ideas for the further development of the railway corridor in Athens (CODE ATHENS). Professors and experts will accompany and support the student working groups.

Under the auspices of the City of Athens.



ETH zürich

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CODE-ATHENS

Rail&City

International Symposium on
Railway & City Development

16th -17th
APRIL
2015
ATHENS



Programme

International Symposium on Railway & City Development, Athens

Thursday, 16 April 2015

- > 08.30 Welcome, Coffee and Registration
- > 09.00 Welcome speeches:
Bernd Scholl, Moderation: Irini Frezadou
- > 09.10 Welcome, Ministry NN
- > 09.20 Welcome by the Mayor of Athens, Giorgos Kaminis
- > 09.30 Welcome by the Mayor of Piraeus, Giannis Moralis
- > 09.40 Welcome by the EU, NN
- > 09.50 Welcome by the OSE President,
Panagiotis Alk. Theofanopoulos
- > 10.00 Central Station and City Development in Vienna,
Maria Vassilakou
- > 10.20 The new Vienna Central Railway Station, Karl-Johann Hartig
- > 10.40 Vienna: Questions and Answers
- > 11.00 Coffee break
- > 11.30 Development of the Railway System in Zurich, Gion Letta
- > 11.50 Railway & City Development in Zurich, Peter Noser
- > 12.10 Zurich: Questions and Answers
- > 12.30 Lunch
- > 14.00 AVE: Rail Stations and Urban Expectations in Several
Spanish Cities, Juan Luis de las Rivas Sanz
- > 14.20 Development of Railway in Madrid, Antonio Aguilar
- > 14.40 Madrid: Questions and Answers
- > 15.00 Coffee break

- > 15.30 Real Estate Development near the Berlin Central Station,
Klaus Joachim Kenzler
- > 15.50 Urban Development around the Central Station of Berlin,
Annalie Schoen
- > 16.10 Berlin: Questions and Answers
- > 16.30 Closing Discussion

Friday, 17 April 2015

- > 09.00 Welcome by Kostas Moraitis, Moderation: Irini Frezadou
- > 09.10 Introduction to Athens, Dimitris Karidis
- > 09.30 Railway Development in Athens, George Pantelas
- > 09.50 Central Station and City Development of Athens,
Magdalini Panoussi
- > 10.10 Athens: Question and Answers
- > 10.30 Reserves
- > 10.50 Coffee break
- > 11.20 Round table with representatives from the Cities and OSE
(1 per city)
Moderation: Bernd Scholl
- > 12.30 Closing speeches
Albert Speer, Albert Speer Foundation
- > 12.40 Close by Kostas Moraitis
- > 12.50 Close by Vassilis Pappas
- > 13.00 Apéro riche at Acropolis Museum
- > 14.30 Close of the Rail&City International Symposium

Speakers

- Antonio Aguilar, Director General of RENFE, Madrid
- Dr. Lorenzo Amberg, Swiss Ambassador in Greece
- Irini Frezadou, Architect & Spatial Planner ETH/NDS, Athens
- Dr. Karl-Johann Hartig, General Project Manager of the Vienna Central Railway Station Project, Vienna
- Dr. Giorgos Kaminis, Mayor of the City of Athens
- Dimitris Karidis, Professor, NTU Athens
- Klaus Joachim Kenzler, former Director of DB Real Estate, Berlin
- Gion Letta, former Project Manager of SBB, Zurich
- Dr. Kostas Moraitis, Professor of Urban and Landscape Design, NTU Athens
- Giannis Moralis, Mayor of the City of Piraeus
- Peter Noser, former Deputy Director of City Planning Department, Zurich
- Magdalini Panoussi, Head of the Planning Department, City of Athens
- George Pantelas, Department of Strategic Planning and Development, OSE, Athens
- Dr. Vassilis Pappas, Professor of Spatial Planning, University of Patras
- Dr. Juan Luis de las Rivas Sanz, Professor of Spatial Planning and Urban Design, School of Architecture, Valladolid
- Grigorios Sampatakakis, Director of the Department of Strategic Planning and Development, OSE, Athens
- Annalie Schoen, Director of the Senate Department for Urban Development and Environment, Berlin
- Dr. Bernd Scholl, Professor of Spatial Development, ETH Zurich
- Albert Speer, Prof. em., Albert Speer Foundation, Frankfurt
- Dr. Panagiotis Alk.Theofanopoulos, President of OSE, Athens
- Maria Vassilakou, Deputy Mayor of the City of Vienna
- Hans-Peter Vetsch, Railway Expert, Zurich

