



ECRAF Congress 9-12th September 2014 Trenčín, Slovakia:

## SUCCESSFUL CONGRESS HELD IN SLOVAKIA



ECRAF's Congress 2014 was successfully arranged in Trenčín, Slovak Republic. Vice President Ernes Heleg said at the closing that it was well organised Congress and that Slovak Republic was excellent host nation. The main topics: „**Training of the military emergency services units with focus on road safety and driver skills**“ and „**Civil vs. Military vehicles: How to tackle the differences in road safety?**“, were followed by interesting presentations and discussions. The General Assembly has adopted a number of important conclusions and documents, which are very important for the future ECRAF's. (continue: page 2).

### ECRAF Elections

## CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP

At the General Assembly 12th September 2014 major **Arto Purkunen** (Finland) was elected as new ECRAF **President** for one year mandate (2014-2015). Arto Purkunen has been member of the Executive Committee (EC) since 2012. Lieutenant Colonel **Ernes Heleg** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) was elected as **Vice-President** for his second two-year mandate (2014-2016). Ernes Heleg was member of the EC from 2010 to 2012, the Vice-President from 2012 to 2013 and Acting President from 2013 to 2014.



Ernes Heleg and Arto Purkunen

### New EC member

According to changes within ECRAF Statutes, major **Aleksandar Gošić** (Serbia) is new appointed **EC member** for one year mandate (2014-2015), as representative of next Congress host nation. Aleksandar Gošić has served on different positions among driver training, logistics training, movement and transportation planning. Actually, he is responsible for road safety and dangerous goods and has served in the Department for General Logistics at MoD since 2010. In 2014, he finished Master degree studies in Logistics Management – Movement and Transportation in The Military Academy. He has been a delegate of ECRAF since 2011.



Aleksandar Gošić



Photo Galery: ECRAF Congress 2014, Trenčín, Republic of Slovakia,



## The main decisions from the General Assembly 2014:

- The **Annual report 2013-2014** from the Executive Committee was approved by GA. The report showed that EC has had three meetings and discussed 28 subjects and some additional subjects have been discussed and solved by mail or phone contact.
- Article 10 of the **ECRAF Statutes** was changed. In the future the composition of the Executive Committee will be: President, Vice President, 2 elected EC members for 2 year mandate and 1 appointed EC member from next Congress host nation with one year mandate.
- The **Executive Committee** will have two regular meetings per year (March and September)
- GA approved **Updated Strategy plan 2013-2017** and **new Action Plan 2014-2015**. Both documents are less ambitious for the organisation which means both documents were reduced to a more realistic and military document.
- GA has decided to make some changes on the ECRAF **web page**. There will be *protected "member area"* where all internal documents will be posted...
- Status of the **Sponsorship directive** for future will be on the agenda for GA 2015...
- EC will have discussion in order to find out a way ahead on statistics, and next GA 2015 will decide on **ECRAF statistics** for future...
- Fore next Congresses: A matrix will be used for record experience from members on main topic

*More info on above issues will come later at the web*



**ECRAF needs a new Secretary...**

After 4 years supporting ECRAF Secretariats (3 years Administrative Secretary and 1 year Secretary), Belgium has decided to stop and to hand over this position to another ECRAF member nation, announced Belgium delegates at the GA 2015 in Trenčín. *Kevin De Medts (Belgium) has been Administrative Secretary / Secretary since 2010, and he did his job very well. His contribution is especially significant in the development of a large number of ECRAF documents and in the organization Four Congresses,* said Ernes Heleg – Vice President.



*Kevin De Medts*

Hand over of Secretariat is scheduled for March 2015.

The ECRAF President, Arto Purkunen said: *I ask you all to think about the task of ECRAF Secretary, and ask your superiors, if your country can contribute ECRAF in this matter.*

According to Article 12 of the ECRAF Statutes, *The main task of the Secretariat is to write minutes from meetings, prepare actual documents, manage and run the web site, do the secretary function for the Election Committee and assist the President.*

**Congress 2014: From the Delegates Feedbacks...**

**THE CONGRESS PROGRAMME**

- Too busy **0**
- Not busy enough **1**
- About right **13**

**DIFFICULT DISCUSSION**

Did you find the discussion difficult to follow?

- Yes **0**
- No **14**

**ENOUGH TIME FOR DISCUSSION**

Does the programme allow enough time for discussion of the main topics?

- Yes **12**
- No **2**

**DELEGATES PRESENTING NATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Would you prefer to have presentations with delegates presenting national activities?

- Yes, if it's interesting for all members **10**
- Yes, as a main topic **3**
- No **1**

**THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME**

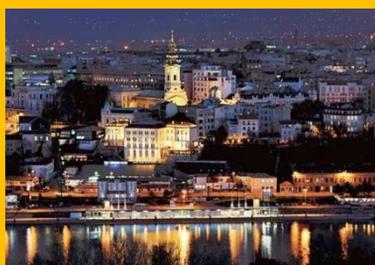
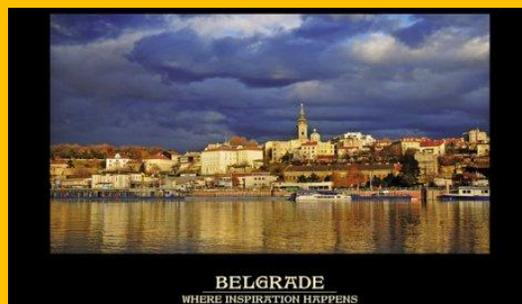
- Relevant to what you want to discuss **11**
- Irrelevant to what you want to discuss **0**
- Interesting but not what you expected **4**

**More info will come later at the web...**

**ECRAF Congress 2015**

**Republic of Serbia will host ECRAF Congress 2015, Belgrade 08-11 September 2015**

The General Assembly in Trenčín, Slovakia, at its meeting on 12th September 2014, decided on place and dates for Congress 2015. Next ECRAF Congress will take place in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia, from 08th to 12th September 2015. The main topic(s) will be decided by the ECRAF Executive Committee in close cooperation with host nation and according proposals from Congress 2014 delegates.



Dear ECRAF friends,

The important events for ECRAF, annual Congress and the General Assembly in Trencin, Slovakian Republic, are now history.

The main topics on "Training of the military emergency service units with focus on road safety and drivers skills" and "Civil vs. Military vehicles: How to tackle the differences in road safety?" gave the delegates important information, and we are grateful to all briefers for their interesting and important contribution to the Congress.

The General Assembly was a very important event for ECRAF due to the approvals of ECRAF Statutes update, ECRAF Election Guidelines update and ECRAF Action Plan for the years 2015-2016. The organization of the Congress and the work done by the host nation is extremely important and crucial to the success. It is very demanding to satisfy the needs and expectations from many delegates from different countries with their culture and way of doing the work.

The Slovakian host did a very good job, and fulfilled all our expectations. We are grateful, and I will on behalf of ECRAF express my sincere thanks to Slovakian Republic. Most important in order to give benefits to all participating nations is the involvement by the national delegates of member countries, and I really warmly thank you all for making the Congress in Trencin a success.

A useful tool to measure the success of the Congress is the feedback form the delegates filled. The Executive Committee will analyze the result carefully. My first impression is that most delegates were satisfied with the program, the organization and the execution of the Congress. Delegates have also given their recommendation on for improvements. All your comments will be evaluated and discussed within the Executive Committee, and if approved, implemented as soon as possible. From my point of view, ECRAF is now going to the right direction and will fulfill its place in developing the road safety and changing useful experiences in developing it.

The Executive Committee will have its next meeting in Serbia in the spring, and we will immediately start working on the preparation for the Congress in 2015. The most important issue will be to decide the main topic for the Congress, and to discuss the framework of the program. We also have to find a new secretary for ECRAF before the next EC meeting and it will be quite a big challenge too. I ask you all to think about the task of ECRAF secretary, and ask your superiors, if your country can contribute ECRAF in this matter.

I am looking forward to meet you all in Serbia in September 2015.

Arto Purkunen  
ECRAF President

Lahti, 10 October 2014



## EDITORIAL

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## CONGRESS HOSTS

ECRAF is searching for hosts for the congresses in 2016 and 2017. Interested candidates can contact the President or Secretary for more information. Actual candidates are also under discussion by EC.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the ECRAF Newsletter will come in April 2015. Contributions must be received within the last week of March 2015.

