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IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL RESEARCH

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AS/sm



TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE

COST 337

(Unbound granular materials for road pavements)

Subject : Minutes of the third meeting of the Technical Sub-Committee held in Lisbonne on 28th and 29th May 1996.

The 3rd meeting of the COST 337 Technical Sub-Committee (TSC) took place in Lisbon on 28/29th May in Lisbon under the chairmanship of Mr Huhtala (FIN).

As there were a few new attendees in this new Action, Mr Huhtala asked all members to introduce themselves.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Mr Huhtala asked whether members had any comments on the draft agenda which had been distributed by Mr Stimpson.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr Huhtala went through the minutes of the second Technical Sub-Committee meeting on a page by page basis and asked members whether they wished for any amendments. Some minor changes were necessary.

3. Action Analysis

All actions from the previous meeting had been progressed satisfactorily.

4. COST/Commission Matters

MoU Update

Mr Stimpson informed the Committee that the COST 337 MoU had been finally approved, and he and Mr Huhtala gave an overview of the discussion within the Committee of Senior Officials (CSO). This discussion had covered the possibility of combining COST 333 (Bituminous Pavement Design), COST 334 (Effects of Single and Dual Tyre Assemblies), COST 336 (Use of Falling Weight Deflectometers) and COST 337 (Use of Unbound Granular Materials). The CSO had decided that the Actions were different and that they should therefore be kept separate.

In order that the subject of signing the MoU in an appropriate timescale for commencement of the work programme, members were asked to outline the status of the process in their individual countries. The situations were as follows:

Finland

Mr Huhtala outlined the situation in Finland, having talked with the COST National Coordinator (CNC). The Finnish CNC had suggested a number of minor amendments to the Council COST Secretariat at the April CSO meeting, and was waiting for the revised document before he could begin the MoU signature process at national level.

Portugal

Mrs Freire said that Portugal had completed the process, and that their CNC had notified the Permanent Representation in Brussels. They were therefore ready to sign the MoU.

Belgium

Mr van den Kerkhof had contacted the Belgian CNC, and had been told that the process was under way.

France

Mr Hornych said that he had been in contact with the French CNC, who had also initiated the MoU signature process.

Switzerland

Mr Huet explained that he was new to the Action, and stated that there was great interest in the subject in Switzerland, particularly because of the availability of materials from tunneling projects. Mr Acquarone, the chairman of the the Technical Committee on Transport had been contacted and also the Swiss CNC. This had been noted as being very responsive by a new member and it was hoped that the Swiss intention would be registered with the Council COST Secretariat in the near future.

Slovenia

Mrs Petkovsek said that the Slovenian CNC had been contacted by one of her colleagues and that the MoU signature process was under way. It was suggested that she maintain contact as appropriate in order to keep in touch with the situation

Sweden

Mr Johansson said that there were problems in Sweden with government level restructuring and the formalisation of a revised research strategy. Mr Stimpson had been told by Mr Eriksson, the Swedish representative on the Technical Committee for Transport, that the MoU process would therefore take longer than normal.

United Kingdom

Mr Dawson had contacted the people in the UK and had been told that things were progressing. It was recommended that he maintain contact with the UK CNC to keep in touch with the situation.

Netherlands

Mr Beuving said that the Netherlands CNC had been contacted by one of his colleagues. He stated that the MoU signature process was under way and that he would maintain contact.

Membership

Mr Stimpson mentioned that interest in participating had been expressed by Mr Davitt of the Irish National Roads Authority and also by Mr Becker of BAST (D). He expected that they would be attending future meetings. Mr Huhtala also mentioned an expression of interest from Norway, and said that he would maintain contact with these potential members to find out when they were likely to attend their first meetings.

Budget

Mr Stimpson mentioned the subject of meeting costs and the necessity to keep these within reasonable limits. This had become a higher profile issue recently due to escalating travel costs. Members agreed to look closely at this issue in order that the group could have the flexibility to visit the desired technical installations during the course of the Action.

Evaluation

Mr Stimpson reminded the TSC of the technical/management and impact evaluations which would take place at the end of the Action. He also mentioned the possibility of an interim evaluation. As soon as working groups began operating, these requirements should be taken into account from the first stages.

Publicity

Publicity Leaflet

Mr Stimpson introduced the TSC to the first draft of the planned COST 337 publicity leaflet, and asked whether there were any modifications required. Members had a number of amendments to the first three sections which were noted by Mr Stimpson.

Mr Huhtala was to provide text on 'benefits to different users' immediately after the meeting, and he and other members agreed to input any comments and suitable photographs before the 7th June deadline.

Internet

Mr Stimpson outlined the intended role of the Internet in future COST Transport activities, and explained that there were already COST and COST Transport pages in existence. The next step was to input Action level information. The publicity leaflet, MoU Technical Annex were expected to be available and it was anticipated that a general section would be updated by selected members of individual Actions. This would be a significant tool in reaching both targeted and general users.

A number of members agreed to update the COST 337 general section on a regular basis.

5. Task 1 (Functional Requirements of Base and Sub-Base Layers)

Discussion of the First Draft Report

Mr Beuving gave a presentation of the work which had taken place to date, and referred to the papers which he had distributed prior to and during the meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed that these documents constituted an effective baseline from which the eventual work package reports could be generated.

Mr Huhtala suggested that the working group should also consider identification of the problems in this area. It would then be easy to explain to decision makers the reason for the work and to begin work on the solutions. Mr Stimpson suggested that the present problems and existing granular material solutions were likely to be different in different countries, and that it might therefore be a good idea for members to briefly define these prior to the set up of the requirements working group.

Determination of Next Steps

Mr Beuving and the nominated members of the working group agreed to create a brief questionnaire for finalisation and approval within that group by 19th July. This would be immediately distributed to the members of the Technical Sub-Committee for completion by end of August. A brief analysis would then be done within the working group prior to the next TSC meeting. The nature of the questionnaire was the responsibility of the working group, but it would include questions on problems and existing solutions in different countries (prioritised). Mr Huet also agreed to join the group.

6. Task 2a (Review of Tests, Test Procedures and Methodologies)

Discussion of the Way Forward Proposal

Mr Hornyk described the work already done in this area, and outlined the assumptions behind the draft questionnaire which was distributed to members in mid-May. He asked the members for any further comments to those which had already been given.

Questionnaire Issues

Three short questionnaires or sections were proposed, and these were to address the following subjects:

- * test methods for unbound granular materials.
- * methodologies of study of unbound granular materials.
- * the repeated load triaxial test.

Following an extensive discussion, guidance was given for relatively minor amendments to the proposed approach. For example, Mr Huet (CH) believed very strongly that chemical stability was an important issue. Leaching and long term behaviour testing were also seen as being key issues.

Determination of Next Steps

Mr Huhtala suggested that the initial questionnaire exercise should be as simple as possible. Mr Stimpson suggested that, if open ended questions were asked, recipients should also be given the opportunity to give yes/no or 'tick' type answers as these were more likely to be answered.

The working group agreed to make the amendments and to distribute to TSC members by 19th July. Members would complete the questionnaires themselves and also obtain inputs from a small number of selected targets. These would be returned to Mr Hornych by end of August. Mr Hornych would then present the initial analysis of the results at the next Committee meeting. Mr Johansson suggested that he would have significant input from another exercise in which he was involved. Mr Dawson and Mr Vulliet (CH) were also to join the group.

7. Task 2b (Review of Models and Modelling Requirements)

Discussion of Way Forward Proposal

Mr Gomes Correia gave a description of the work recently undertaken by the modelling working group, and overviewed the assumptions in the initial paper which had been distributed to members. He asked for particular further inputs.

Questionnaire Issues

He reminded the TSC that it was important to integrate the work with testing activities and input to design, and proposed a way of doing this. He asked whether members believed that there should be a dedicated modelling questionnaire or whether it would be better to include the questions in others.

Determination of Next Steps

Mr Huhtala gave a short presentation of the way in which he would like to see things progressing. He wished for a very practical approach and suggested consideration of the following issues:

- * Whole Pavement - Pavement Design
- * Modelling of Stiffness. To include:
 - state of stress
 - density
 - water content
 - effect of underlying layers
 - triaxial
- * Modelling of Performance
- * Use of Models

Mr Gomes Correia expressed his initial opinions on this approach, and the working group agreed to take these comments into account in the future work. Messrs Huhtala and Huet mentioned a number of potential input documents and, as the Action had not formally begun yet, agreed to send them to Mr Gomes Correia in shorter time. It was agreed that Mr Huet would join the working group.

Mr Hornych would lead the development of a modelling questionnaire for approval within the working group and distribution to members by 19th July 1996. TSC members were to complete the questionnaire by end of August and send to Mr Hornych. The working group would present the initial analysis at the Brussels meeting.

8. Task 2c (Review of Use of Materials)

Discussion of the Way Forward Proposal

Mr Johansson reviewed the efforts of the working group to date, and described the approach taken in the questionnaire exercise.

Questionnaire Issues

Mr Johansson presented some of the results which had already been received on his basic initial questionnaire exercise from different countries. Mr Johansson mentioned to members those inputs which were outstanding at national level, and it was noted that some of the inputs had been quite detailed.

Determination of Next Steps

Mr Huhtala felt that it would be useful at the analysis stage to create syntheses in tabular form in order to summarise the situation throughout the member countries. He also suggested that problematic materials should be summarised.

The working group members agreed to take into account the comments of the TSC and to finalise the questionnaire and distribute to members by 19th July. Members, and their targeted associates were to complete these by end of August and return to Mr Johansson. The working group were to present the initial analysis by the next TSC meeting.

9. Task 3 (Requirements for Improved Use of Materials)

Discussion of the Way Forward Proposal

Mr Dawson referred to a paper which he had distributed to members in mid-May. This attempted to set the structure for the work package prior to its beginning in 1997. Mr Huhtala noted that this work was being done early, but suggested that it was appropriate to take the first steps at this stage.

Determination of Next Steps

Having described the potential structure, Mr Dawson had also attempted to summarise the sub-tasks which should be carried out in order to complete the work package. Mr Huhtala and Mr Beuving had a number of comments which Mr Dawson agreed to take into account. He would finalise the baseline document and distribute to members for comment prior to the next TSC meeting.

10. Task 4 (Coordination of National Test Programmes)

Mr Huhtala stated the things that he expected to see in the preliminary document. Mr Stimpson mentioned the European Weigh in Motion Trials Programme being coordinated within COST 323 at present and suggested that a similar approach might be undertaken within COST 337. It would therefore be necessary to undertake an information gathering exercise in the first instance, aimed at identifying the testing activities being undertaken at national level, initially by the member organisations and then on a wider basis.

The initial goal would be to inform national testing staff of activities in other countries and suggested or recommended improvements in effectiveness as a result of international collaboration. There was the possibility of widening this goal to include more countries and greater interaction between trials programmes via COST 337.

Mr Dawson agreed to determine the most appropriate ways of gathering information for input to the work package and to distribute a 'way forward' document to TSC members for discussion at the September meeting. TSC members were invited to provide as much information on testing activities to Mr Dawson as possible by end of July, initially within their organisations and then within their countries.

11. Any Other Business

There was none.

12. Dates and Venues of Future Meetings

Management Committee

23/24th September 1996	Brussels (BRRC)
27/28th January 1997	Nantes

Working Group

12th November 1996	Task 1 (BRRC, Brussels)
2nd October 1996	Task 2a (Provisional)
3rd October 1996	Task 2b (Provisional)
4th October 1996	Task 2c (Provisional)

Mr Stimpson described the system for approving small working groups (less than five people reimbursed). Mr Huhtala, as chairman, was to write a short fax to Mr Stimpson requesting a meeting (with details of date, venue and attendees). Mr Stimpson would then write a short fax indicating final funding approval.

ACTION LIST FROM 3RD COST 337 TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

Section

1. Mr Stimpson to generate and distribute the agenda for the Brussels meeting by 7th September 1996.
2. Mr Stimpson to amend the minutes of the 2nd meeting and distribute to members by 5th June 1996.
2. Mr Stimpson to finalise the minutes of the 3rd meeting and distribute to members by 5th June 1996.
4. Members (in particular CH, F, NL, P, SLO, UK) to maintain contact with their COST National Coordinators in order to attempt to obtain MoU signatures in the desired timescale.
4. Mr Huhtala to contact the potential new German, Irish and Norwegian members to ascertain their intentions.
4. Members to attempt to keep travel costs within informally agreed guidelines.
4. Mr Huhtala to forward the outstanding publicity leaflet text and photographs to Mr Stimpson by 7th June.
4. Members to provide text input on 'benefits to different users' to Messrs Huhtala and Stimpson by 7th June. Also, suggested photographs to be sent to Mr Stimpson.
5. Working group members to complete, approve and distribute the Task 1 questionnaire to TSC members by 19th July.
5. Members to return completed questionnaires to Mr Beuving by end of August for initial analysis by the Brussels meeting.
6. Working group members to complete, approve and distribute the Task 2a questionnaire to TSC members by 19th July.
6. Members to return completed questionnaires to Mr Hornych by end of August for initial analysis by the Brussels meeting.
6. Mr Johansson to provide key input to Mr Hornych for the Task 2a exercise by 14th June.
7. Working group members to complete, approve and distribute the Task 2b questionnaire to TSC members by 19th July.
7. Members to return completed questionnaires to Mr Hornych by end of August for initial analysis by the Brussels meeting.

7. Messrs Huhtala and Huet to provide key input documents to the Task 2b work 'at an appropriate time.'
8. Working group members to complete, approve and distribute the Task 2c questionnaire to TSC members by 19th July.
8. Members to return completed questionnaires to Mr Johansson by end of August for initial analysis by the Brussels meeting.
9. Mr Dawson to finalise the Task 3 baseline document and distribute to members for comment prior to the Brussels meeting.
10. Members to supply as much information as possible on testing activities at national level to Mr Dawson by end of July 1996.
10. Mr Dawson to generate a summary of testing activities at national level and a suggested way forward document for distribution to members prior to the Brussels meeting.
12. Mr van den Kerkhof to complete the local arrangements for the TSC meeting at the BRRC in Brussels.
12. Mr Stimpson to complete the Council and Commission administration for the TSC meeting at the BRRC in Brussels.

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Lisbon, 28th and 29th May 1996**

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