

## **ETP Conference Vienna, April 4th,**

Parallel Session 1, 1400 – 1530:

Strengthening European competitiveness in the era of globalisation.

### **Statements of Rudi Kunze, ERTRAC Chairman:**

ETPs like ERTRAC may contribute to competitiveness for one of the largest business sectors in Europe with 20% GDP, 9% work force, Nr 1 with 30% in R&D, representing 73% of inland transport etc. for the following reasons:

1. Road transport sector is a rather heterogeneous one with so different stakeholders like car industry, suppliers, oil industry, telecoms, infrastructure, regional groupings etc. Via an ETP like ERTRAC, all those players find a unique platform to discuss / monitor the research needed for the future, structured in 4 pillars. To other relevant ETPs like ARTEMIS, MANUFUTURE, HFC or ERRAC there may be a partial overlap, which is in mutual agreement and discussed in close relation.
2. ERTRAC has the goal to overcome the fragmentation of road transport research in the Europe of 25 different nations compared to the situation in the US. Reference to ERTRAC's analysis report "National Programs" and initiating activities for national research in line with a wider European strategy.
3. In order to be globally competitive in road transport, it is not sufficient to have research since various other non - technical players may contribute or hinder a successful innovation. Example is the availability of a frequency (24GHz) for future safer, driver assistance systems. In ERTRAC's broad spectrum of stakeholders many other non research issues / needs are to be taken into account - standards, regulatory, liability etc.
4. For being globally competitive in road transport, several societal issues like safety, environment / energy and mobility / congestion have to be taken into account. Therefore 3 out of the 4 ERTRAC pillars cover research areas, which are driven and accepted by society and politics. An ETP like ERTRAC – having all relevant players as members – provides an ideal platform to pursue such themes.
5. The various private and national ERTRAC partners invest a lot in R&D (more than 28 bn private and several bn by member states) for strengthening their future competitiveness. In order to continue and extend this common effort, an additional incentive of 1.75 bn is needed by EC / FP7 to match the significant amount of all partners.