



April 16, 2010

To whom it may concern

With the present letter I hereby confirm the interest and support of **ECTRI (the European Conference of Transport Research Institutes)** to the FET-Flagship proposal so called "*FuturICT Knowledge Accelerator*" to be presented as a contribution to the Flagship Consultation 2010 launched within the DG INFSO ICT programme.

As mentioned in the *FuturICT flagship* proposal, the greatest bottleneck of ICT systems today is the difficulty in making sense and efficient use of the large amounts of data generated. The *FuturICT flagship* shall, therefore,

- develop novel ICT systems (incl. applications and infrastructures) combining the best of human and computational abilities to support the understanding, integrative design, and management of complex systems,
- apply these to model techno-social and economic, transport, environmental and other global systems,
- create instruments to support the self-organization, decision-making and governance in politics, business, industry, and academia, with the aim to foster societal goals (e.g. robust techno-social and sustainable economic systems),
- develop principles and tools that will facilitate the emergence of high quality processes, products and institutions in techno-social networks.

In this perspective, the *FuturICT flagship* will create interactive, multi-purpose modelling, exploration, and systems design tools that use the best combination of human and machine intelligence.

Taking into account that "intelligence" (system, technology, data) is one of the key fields of research in which ECTRI gives emphasis and advice since it considers this field as one of the predominant future issues for transport research:

ECTRI supports the ground-breaking ICT research addressed by the *FuturICT flagship*, considering that such research is crucial to identify the success factors of societies and to anticipating and responding to the Grand socio-economic and environmental challenges to be faced by the society in the 21st century.

ECTRI is convinced that the *FuturICT flagship* will provide a strong and broad basis for future technological innovation and economic exploitation in a variety of areas, as well as novel benefits for society. As a matter of fact, ECTRI considers this initiative as particularly relevant for the transport system whose efficiency could be significantly increased.

At last, as an ambitious European large-scale and ICT-based initiative oriented at visionary high-risk research, integrating multiple scientific disciplines, ECTRI believes that the *FuturICT flagship* will bolster Europe's competitiveness and the innovation ecosystem in the long term, leverage the scientific excellence, and put Europe in a strong position in innovation in future, such as expected in the EC communication 'Moving the ICT frontiers' issued in April 2009.

I am looking forward to bringing in the visions of the transport research Community through the active participation in the *FuturICT flagship* of ECTRI Member-Politecnico di Torino, and to supporting the project in promoting and disseminating its developments and achievements.

Sincerely yours

Caroline ALMERAS
Secretary General