

Conference Programme

EURoPrice Final Conference

Friday 13th December 2002

Polis Office
Rond-point Schuman 6
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

The conference will include speakers:

- From the Commission on charging policies
- From EURoPrice cities on the issues being addressed

And:

- Results and experiences of the EURoPrice Project
- A political forum

This conference is free of charge

Politicians may be reimbursed their travel costs, please contact Bristol City Council for more details.

For further information or a registration form please contact:

Bristol City Council:

Tel: + 44 (0) 117 9036560 Fax + 44 (0) 117 9036540

E-mail: transport_initiatives@bristol-city.gov.uk

Further information is also available on: www.europriice-network.org

EURoPrice FINAL CONFERENCE

Political Acceptance of
Urban Road Pricing Schemes

Friday 13th December 2002

BRUSSELS



Speakers include: Politicians from the EURoPrice cities, Cities with new initiatives and the European Commission.

Location: Polis Office, Rond-point Schuman 6, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium.

EUROPRICE Project phase 2

EUROPRICE was set up to advance road pricing initiatives through investigation of the political issues faced by cities. It involves co-operation between the European Commission, city authorities, both politicians and senior policy makers, who are considering the implementation of road pricing.

The EUROPRICE project is in its 2nd phase (June 2001 – Dec 2002) and has continued and expanded on work previously undertaken on road pricing issues in phase 1.

The 7 participating cities are Amsterdam, Belfast, Bristol (project leaders), Edinburgh, Genoa, Leeds and Rome.

Results

The project partners met to discuss key issues and commissioned external experts. 5 Guidance Papers have been produced on topics such as political support, marketing strategies, building support with businesses, management & organisation and technical & operational issues. 4 newsletters providing summaries and updates from the cities have also been published. A revamped website contains all these publications and further information at www.europrice-network.org

Road pricing has become increasingly accepted as an effective policy measure to combat growing levels of congestion and pollution in Europe. The cities recognise the importance of introducing road pricing only as part of an integrated package of measures, in order to gain public acceptance. The issues and experiences shared by the cities have benefited city policy makers and contributed to both national and European policy documents.

Partner cities

Amsterdam

Amsterdam has a population of 800,000 people, and has undergone rapid economic development in recent years. Parking restrictions have been applied, but there are still problems with congestion. Following elections in 2002 it will not be possible to introduce tolling as previously hoped, but toll options to finance new infrastructure are still possible on new roads and tunnels.



Belfast

Belfast is Northern Ireland's premier commercial, retail and administrative centre with a population of over 650,000. Preliminary studies have indicated that road user charging is technically feasible and its potential is currently being considered further during the development of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan.

Bristol

Bristol is the regional capital in the south west of England, with an urban population of just over 400,000 people. The region is predominately car-based which causes high levels of congestion. To alleviate this congestion, Bristol proposes to implement an electronic city centre cordon charging scheme.



Edinburgh

Being the capital of Scotland, although good public transport is in place, congestion is still a problem. Major consultation has been undertaken and two charging schemes are being considered.

Genoa

Caught between the coast and mountains Genoa has no means by which through traffic can bypass the city centre, which causes high levels of congestion. In order to reduce this congestion Genoa hopes to implement a charging scheme with Optical Character Recognition technology.



Leeds

Leeds is the second largest metropolitan authority in England whose rapidly expanding economy causes traffic problems. Leeds is the host city for the UK government's road user charging technology trial, DIRECTS.

Rome

Being the capital city of Italy, Rome is home to over 2.5 million inhabitants. Rome already has a charging system to combat its congestion (LTZ) which became fully electronic in October 2001. Its introduction has seen a 20% reduction in private traffic flows and an increase of 6% in public transport use.

