

**“Paving the way to a pan-European electronic tolling reality:
the CESARE IV project and future perspectives”**

Concessionaires asking to “bridge the gap between definition and realisation”

Toll concessionaires are the key players in the EETS¹ move from myth to reality. This is what reflected the discussions held on the occasion of the **ASECAP Think Tank and CESARE IV day**, attended by up to 120 participants from EU policy-makers, Members States representatives, ASECAP experts and other important stakeholders.

The European Association of tolled road infrastructures operators (ASECAP) invited them to discuss the latest developments and future perspectives of an EU-wide interoperability, in respect of real market conditions and different national realities.

ASECAP also presented the results of the CESARE IV project (Common Electronic Fee Collection System for a Road Tolling European Service). This crucial project has been successfully fuelling all the preparatory works of the EU institutions, proving once again that infrastructures operators are major actors for an effective and rapid implementation of the recent European Commission (EC)’s Decision on “the definition of a European Electronic Toll Service”.

Opening the event, J.F. Colman, responsible for road transport within the Cabinet of the vice-president Tajani, reminded that “*this Decision is the most important step forward for road users since the opening of the borders*”.

ASECAP members and experts from national administrations presented the picture of today’s realities in Europe, as well as future objectives and national targets in terms of charging policies. From these interactive technical sessions followed by lively discussions, it resulted that it is uncertain whether an EU-wide interoperability will lead to an effective business-case: regional services may rise from the market instead. Moreover, the cost of service to the users and to the toll chargers needs to be valued for money.

The representative of the Swedish presidency highlighted that Member States, toll chargers and market players must now take the lead and solve the last remaining barriers, stating that “*It’s time for joint actions. Actors concerned have a responsibility in setting the implementation process going within a timeframe which is anyhow very critical*”.

Finally, Jean Mesqui – chairman of the ASECAP committee in charge of tolling and financing – concluded in pointing out that “*from now on reaching interoperability is an obligation : our challenge is to transform this obligation into an opportunity*”.

The proceedings of the conference will be online soon on the ASECAP website

www.asecap.com

¹ EETS: European Electronic Toll Service



Association Européenne des Concessionnaires
d'Autoroutes et d'Ouvrages à Péage



ASECAP is the European Association of tolled road infrastructures operators. It gathers 21 national members managing more than 40.000 km. of road networks. ASECAP mission is to promote tolling and the direct user-payer principle as the most efficient tool to finance the construction, safe operation and effective maintenance of motorways and other major road infrastructures.

CESARE IV (Common Electronic Fee Collection System for a Road Tolling European Service) is a project set up by ASECAP (the European Association of Toll Motorways Operators) in connection with the Stockholm Group (a forum of Road Public Administrations from Finland, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom) and co-financed by European Commission, with the objective of specifying, designing, developing, promoting and implementing a common interoperable Electronic Fee Collection System (EFC) on European toll roads. The main goal of CESARE IV is to define, according to the European Directive 2004/52, a framework for establishing an interoperable EETS (European Electronic Toll Service), functioning in a coordinated way at the European level, while allowing the Member States to fasten the pace of their National implementation for EETS.