

Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia – AESS

Introductory speech at Euro CASE Board annual meeting

Euro-CASE Board meeting n°44
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Room: Albert 1
ARB - Palais des Académies
Rue Ducale 1 - 1000 Brussels, Belgium

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Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia - AESS

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Dear Mr. Chairman, distinguished members of the Euro CASE Board, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

It is a privilege for me to have the opportunity to address such a distinguished audience on behalf of the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia (AESS) and to give you a short presentation of our Academy.

The Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia is an independent, non-for-profit organization. It was founded in 1998 in Belgrade upon the initiative of a group of prominent professors and researchers led by Professor Miomir Vukobratović who was, at that time, also a full member of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

The mission of the Academy is to advance the national economy and the well-being of both citizens and society as a whole through promoting excellence in the fields of engineering, applied sciences and technology, as well as by promoting the engineering profession and practice. To accomplish this mission the objectives of the Academy are:

1. To create a platform for effective cooperation between universities, research institutions and industry;
2. To foster research and innovation in applied sciences and technology development and to advance other forms of scientific and engineering creativity;
3. To guide engineering education by providing policy advice and rendering programs to enhance teaching and learning, to motivate young people to become engineers, and to increase diversity across the profession;

4. To use expertise and insights of eminent engineers to provide independent and balanced advice to the government, governmental institutions, organizations and enterprises on matters involving engineering and technology;
5. To strengthen engineering institutions, provide a voice for the engineering profession, and recognize outstanding engineering achievements through prizes and awards;
6. To contribute to the dissemination of knowledge across different fields of engineering science with a high relevance to the national economy and society as a whole.

The Academy is governed by a Steering Committee, consisting of a Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary General and six members representing the departments of the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia. The Steering Committee regularly meets once per month. Each year, the Academy organizes an Annual general assembly at which the annual report about the work of the Academy is delivered by the Steering Committee, the plan for the next year is adopted and awards are granted for outstanding engineering achievements and results.

As of 2013, the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia comprised 108 full members, 74 corresponding members and 10 honorary members. Also, the academy had 63 foreign members from universities, research institutes and industry all over the world.

All members of the Academy are elected following rigorous procedures and in accordance with high scientific and engineering standards by secret vote at the Academy's election assembly held every three years.

The members of the Academy are recognized by their engineering achievements, scientific and technical publications, projects, patents and other forms of engineering and scientific results that were published both in the country and/or abroad. This group of outstanding engineers and scientists constitutes a unique multidisciplinary "forum of knowledge and experience" within Serbia, covering all fields of engineering.

The Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia performs its activities through six departments:

- Department of Biotechnical Engineering Sciences,
- Department of Civil Engineering Sciences,
- Department of Electrical Engineering Sciences,
- Department of Mechanical Engineering Sciences,
- Department of Mining and Geological Engineering Sciences, and
- Department of Technology, Metallurgy and Material Engineering Sciences.

Besides the departments, the activities of the Academy proceed through Scientific Technical Committees that are engaged in different multidisciplinary areas:

- Committee for National Technology Platforms – STC NTP;
- Committee for Energy – STC E;
- Committee for Food – STC F;
- Committee for International Cooperation – STC IC;
- Committee for Education – STC Edu;
- Committee for Publications – STC Pub.

The Academy actively and intensively interacts with society through the organization of conferences, round tables, seminars and the publication of monographs, and also through rendering position papers and proposing various initiatives and dialogues associated with the engineering- and technology-related challenges Serbia currently faces. Through its departments, scientific technical committees as well as through individual initiatives the Academy provides expert support in formulating various strategic documents for the Government of the Republic of Serbia, such as, for example, the Industrial policy 2020, Energy policy and Educational policy, by providing concrete engineering- and technology-related expert contributions. Through its committee for National Technology Platforms, the Academy built a national system consisting of six individual technology platforms defining strategic directions for development and technology innovation in the fields of manufacturing, food, energy, transport, construction, and information-communication technologies for the period to 2020 and beyond.

To conclude, I would like to express my gratitude for the invitation to participate in the Euro CASE Board meeting. I am also hoping that this esteemed assembly will reach a positive decision on joining our Academy to Euro CASE so that from January 1st, 2015 the Academy of Engineering Sciences of Serbia will become the 22nd member of the European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering.

I thank you for your kind attention.