

Peter Deschamps, Belgium, new project manager in ARC

Pieter Deshamps from the Flanders region in Belgium is the new project manager for the ARC project Surface Access and Climate Change. Pieter replaces Roger Jones from West Sussex who will concentrate his efforts in other areas, like continuing to support ARC in the EU Commission Observatory on airport capacity.



- The most important challenge today in regard to the development of airport regions is to find a common understanding and agreement about the current and future role of air transport and airports for the European regions, says Pieter.

He thinks that policymakers should have a clear view on this and develop the necessary policy framework to support that role. An important aspect to being successful is a more integrated approach both horizontally and vertically. The development of such a framework should be the result of a participatory process involving all relevant actors.

Pieter Deschamps is motivated to contribute to creating a persuasive and powerful surface access strategy based on European experiences and adopted to each airport regions situation.

- Airports should serve multiple goals. They are not just international gateways by air but can become multimodal hubs for the wider airport regions. If we want airports to succeed in this role, investments in intermodal solutions are necessary. An appropriate strategy on intermodality can also reduce the carbon footprint impact of surface access to airports, says Pieter.

Pieter Deschamps graduated in 2003 as a commercial engineer at the Solvay Business School of the *Vrije Universiteit Brussel*. The first two years of his professional career he worked as an HR-consultant in the field of training and education. In 2005 The Flemish Government established the Flemish Airport Commission and was looking for a Secretary.

- Because I am interested in public policy making and it was my dream to become a pilot (which was not possible because I'm slightly colorblind) I applied for this job. In February 2010 it will be four years, says Pieter.

As Secretary of the Flemish Airport Commission, Pieter is 100 % dedicated in fulfilling their mission and strategic objectives. The Commission contributes to the preparation of the

Flemish airport policy from a socio-economical point of view, with respect of the environmental impact and guided by the balanced approach. It has both an advisory and recommendatory function as well as a study and information function. By this the Commission wants to strengthen the societal support for airport developments.

The Flemish Parliament, the Government, the ministers in charge and the Flanders Social and Economic Council can ask the Commission for advice and studies. The Airport Commission consists of four group members: the employer and trade unions, the airport operators and representatives of the environmental organizations. There are also representatives of the public transport operators, with an advisory function, the Belgian civil aviation authority and people of the different administrations.

ARC and the SACC group have already achieved some remarkable results. Pieter refers to the special report published in January 2008 (*Climate Change and Surface Access in airport regions*) as an important milestone. It showed that the way how transport to and from the airport is organised, can be of great significance in the amount of emissions related to airport regions. It became clear to all participating members that a reliable, sustainable and a performant surface access system to the airport also contributes to reduce the carbon footprint impact.

- Our group is in a stage that we want to learn from each other's situation. By the end of this year we will have a more complete and detailed overview of the carbon footprint of the participating airport regions. We will analyse whether there are and why there are major differences between different airports. Is it possible to create a model airport that can be used for calculations and further evaluation? The results of our work will be presented at the QLAIR conference in Amsterdam in December this year, says Pieter.

He thinks that the added value of the SACC group should be to provide the member regions with use full information/guidance on how to work with aviation, surface accessibility and climate change in their region. At the same time ARC can represent the findings and recommendations of the SA CC group at the European policy level.

- And If I can contribute to achieve these objectives by being the project manager it is my pleasure and honour to do so, concludes Pieter Deschamps.