

ENGLISH ABSTRACTS OF KEY ARTICLES

MAJOR ISSUES IN PREPARATION OF THE NEW BUILDING Act 2001 Planning & Building Regulation Conference Town of Hradec Králové, 26–27 November 2001

The Planning & Building Regulation Conference focused predominantly on providing information to professionals, concerning the course of preparation of an itemized wording of the new building act. A material objective draft for this particular piece of legislation was approved in June 2001; it gave rise to a number of entirely new issues that are currently elaborated upon within a framework of particular subject matters and verified in model (case) studies.

Conference participants were briefed on both detail preparations of particular selected issues and problems, solutions to which are yet to be identified. Concurrently, they were invited to co-operation and a submittal of suggestions, comments, and observations, so that the first version of an itemized wording could be prepared as early as possible.

Both reports and papers presented at the conference may be characterized in three categories.

The first category includes introductory words and contributions of conference guests. These, however, do not constitute mere “salutes”; such contributions mostly express opinions and attitudes of organisations, activities of which are affected by the Building Act. Among contributions in this category, reports of Mr. Bílek, Architect and ČKA Chairman, of Mr. Blažek, Civil Engineer and ČKAIT representative, and of Mr. Mužík, Architect and AUÚP Chairman, belong to the most interesting ones.

The second category concerns reports presented by representatives of the Ministry for Regional Development. Such reports add to a discussion and comments on the approved material objective of the Building Act. Mr. Tunka, Architect, has presented a paper that we consider fundamental and publish its full text in the magazine. In his contribution, Dr. Kokoška, Deputy Minister of Regional Development Ministry, outlined a complexity of the new act creation process. In the current issue of the magazine, we bring brief information concerning this particular contribution, as well as reports pertaining to individual complex subjects as presented by Mr. May; Mr. Sklenář, MSc; Ms. Bártová, MSc. and Architect; and Mr. Doležal, Contractor.

The third category of reports presented at the conference includes contributions dealing with newly arising problems inherent to the material objective of the Building Act. The contributions provide comments on open issues that must be further discussed and coped with. The third category reports may be exemplified by contributions of Dr. Mareček and Prof. Damohorský, concerning issues of an involvement of the public in the physical planning process, as well as those of Mr. Kyselka, MSc, discussing issues of the permanently sustainable development, and Mr. Třebický, BSc, concerning indicators of the permanently sustainable development. The magazine provides brief information about all these reports and contributions.

- List of conference chief issues:
- Planning background documentation
- Involvement of the public
- Town & country planning and permanently sustainable development
- New instruments of the physical planning
- Cooperation of regions, municipalities, and the state in the physical planning process
- Cooperation with administrative bodies involved in the physical planning
- Building regulations

STREET IN THE CONCEPT OF TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE by Marie Polešáková & Vítězslav Vaněk

A street defines a public space, which may be used for social activities, traffic and transportation, and constitutes a prominent element in the town development. Its major functionality is predominantly utilised in transportation context, i.e. pedestrian and car traffic, mass transportation, and parking. It should be emphasised in this context, however, that a quality of such a movement is derived, additionally, from the quality of public area surface arrangements. Prevailing conditions, from a viewpoint of such a defined quality, are determined, apart from other factors, by the quality of the technical infrastructure, i.e. technical facilities available within a particular area.

For utility lines located underground of the street space, it is desirable, within a framework of their coordination, to accept relevant standards aiming to an enhancement of a coordination of interests (alas, sometimes contradictory ones) of all administrators, operators,

and owners of the technical infrastructure, as well as to determine advantageous conditions for a collision-avoiding functionality of municipality traffic, respecting both the road traffic and a movement on adjacent areas.

DEMOGRAPHIC STAGNATION IN BIG CITIES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC by Alois Andrlé

Although the 2001 census of population, houses, and apartments has only returned preliminary results so far, they still allow for an update of a variety of indicators concerning the number of inhabitants and housing facilities in context of their long-term developments in the Czech Republic. A series of vital issues of population development includes the process of urban development, its consequences, and prospects. The paper focuses on population developments in big cities of the Czech Republic, considering entities with the number of inhabitants exceeding 100 000 people, or slightly less.

The 2001 census preliminary results concerning the number of inhabitants in the Czech Republic indicate 5 big cities (Prague, Brno, Ostrava, Pilsen, and Olomouc) and 4 towns slightly below the 100 000 boundary (Liberec, České Budějovice, Hradec Králové, and Ústí nad Labem). In the past, the towns of Liberec, Hradec Králové, and Ústí nad Labem have already fallen into the category of municipalities with population exceeding the number of 100 000 inhabitants, however, they have lost the ranking as their population have gradually decreased below the boundary, due to a negative population development and, additionally, because of certain administrative measures separating some of their parts and awarding them a status of discrete municipalities.

ENTERPRISING vs. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING – GERMAN EXPERIENCE by Alois Nový

Without doubts, the influx of industrial investments to the Czech Republic has substantially intensified during the last two years; from the viewpoint of spatial planning, however, it is not important whether this phenomenon occurs consequently to a well-designed governmental policy or merely reflects an outside business reality prevailing in Europe and the whole world. Additionally, the phenomenon is associated with a number of both positive and negative circumstances. Naturally, risks of irreversible changes draw attention to the latter. Those include a process of advancing suburbanization, i.e. a displacement of entrepreneurial activities, including manufacturing ones, from urban areas to suburbs, with all the well documented negative side effects. The government, through its ministries for regional development and trade & industry, exerts considerable efforts confronting the issue. Such efforts materialise, apart from others, in the “2001-2006 Industrial Zone Development Support” program, where an important chapter is represented by the “Industrial Zone Regeneration” sub-program. The objective is defined as a restructuring of the Czech Republic industry, substituting old production operations by modern manufacturing facilities having a low both raw material and energy dependence rate, a high added value, and exporting potentials. The issue is closely related to the environmental recultivation. However, statistics (e.g. Czechinvest agency reports) indicate that this objective is only being fulfilled partially. Usually, new production facilities, clearly originating from direct foreign investments, are located on “greenfields” in town-adjacent rural zones. The reason being crystal clear: in pursuit of affluent investors, which may be understandable given the economic situation of the state and particular regions, local administrative bodies appear in a position of weaker partners that, be it consciously or subconsciously, are coerced into a compliance with requirements of foreign investors on a scale unprecedented under strictly domestic circumstances. We could add to it, somehow sardonically, that it may be this particular reason, which makes our country so interesting for the foreign capital.