

Adapting to climate change

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Adapting asphalt roads to Climate Change – Views and needs of the Road Authorities

The European road network is heavily influenced by climate conditions which are expected to change in the future. This Climate change may result in more frequent and more intense rainfall, milder winters, warmer summers, and increases in wind speed and storm frequency. Road authorities need to evaluate the effect of climate change on the road network including design, construction and maintenance of asphalt roads.

The adaptation of road networks to these changes is an important issue that road authorities need to address. They have now to deal with basic questions, namely: What will happen? How likely is it to happen? If it happens, what are the consequences? How can it be mitigated?

Road authorities all across Europe are in the process to gain the knowledge and develop tools necessary to answer those questions. And doubtless asphalt pavements are a key element in those considerations.



Rudi Bull-Wasser studied civil engineering with focus on construction operation at RWTH Aachen University and received his master's degree (Dipl.-Ing.) in 1985.

Since 1986 he is member of the BAST scientific staff and until 2003 he worked in different the sections of the BAST. In that period he was successively dealing with the first generation of porous asphalt; tests with hard-foam as a construction material; the development of PMS; awarding of research projects (in the section "National and International Research Management") and European standardisation.

In 2003 he became head of the section "European Standardisation of Highway Construction" and since 2004 Rudi is head of the section "Asphalt Pavements" and deputy head of division "Highway Construction Technology"

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