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Conference Review and Looking Ahead

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David Lazenby, born 1937, received the postgraduate DIC at Imperial College, London. He is a Fellow of the City and Guilds, London. His work in civil and structural engineering has ranged from U.K. to the Mediterranean and Africa. In standardisation, he is a member of the Construction Board of BSI, and took over the chairmanship of the Eurocodes Committee in 1993.

Many years were spent in preparation of the preliminary reports forming the basis of the first Eurocodes in the 1970's and 1980's, under the direct authority of the European Commission. In 1990 the work was taken into the European Standardisation body CEN, and the head committee CEN/TC 250 was established to direct the whole enterprise.

As chairman of CEN/TC 250, I can report that the Eurocode programme is making very good progress, with a total suite of some 50 Eurocode parts to be published. Of these, more than half have already been published as ENV (provisional/experimental) stage documents, and work is in progress on all the others. The first four ENV's are now starting conversion to the final EN form, including EC1-Part 1, "Basis of Design".

The whole Eurocode programme has recently received a major boost, as the Standing Committee of the member states (SCC) has authorised work on the conversions of all the Eurocode parts as soon as practicable. We can therefore look to practical completion of the full suite of Eurocodes within a few years, and the absorption of them into the national systems.

This conference should provide valuable input to the detailed work on EC1, as well as hopefully reflecting the industry's views on the nature of codes in general. The conclusions of the conference may therefore help us to look ahead to the important matters to be addressed as we approach the implementations of the EN Eurocodes, as well as to the future of design codes generally in our industry. As the nature of the industry develops, and the methods and demands on it change, we must take care that the codes we produce reflect this ongoing evolution.

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