

IRF fuels debate about Public private partnership in Denmark

On 17 April 2008, the Danish Road Federation organized a seminar in Copenhagen to start up the debate about larger involvement of the private sector in road infrastructure development in Denmark. IRF's PPP expert Caroline Visser was invited to address the conference to inject the international dimension to the debate.



IRF's PPP expert Caroline Visser addressing the conference on PPP in Denmark

The issue of larger private sector involvement in road development was raised after the Danish Infrastructure Committee published its recommendation earlier this year to reconsider the traditional allocation of tasks between the public and private sector in this domain and look into public-private partnerships (PPP). The Commission stated that private competences should be involved in connection with the organization and management of construction projects.

The discussion is still in a very political stage; Denmark having some experience with PPP contracts in government buildings, but not yet in the road sector. By presenting international experiences with PPP in the road sector, Caroline Visser showed Denmark's relative position when it comes to the use of PPP contracts and the wide variety of options for PPP currently used in Europe. Recommendations from international experiences are to establish political willingness for a PPP approach and have a number of pilot projects to test the concept and create a market.

As a next step, the Transport Committee of the Danish parliament will have a hearing early autumn to gather insights and establish opinions on the topic.

The event was covered by the national daily newspaper Berlingske.