

There was the ceremonial evaluation of laureates, the 15th year of the competition *Décibel d'Or* – GOLDEN DECIBEL, at the French National Assembly in December 2011.



*From the left:*

**Mr. Martin Šimbera**, the Assistant of the President of the National Noise Observatory in the CR,

**Mr. Pascal Valentin**, the General Manager of the Physical Risks, Risk Prevention Directorate General of the Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing,

**Mr. Eric Diard**, the Member of the French National Assembly, the Deputy of county Bouches-du-Rhône, the Mayor of Sausset les Pins, the Member of the cabinet of Ms. Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, the Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing, the President of the French National Noise Assembly,

and **Mr. Ivo Vanek**, the President of the National Noise Observatory of the CR, at the French National Assembly on 15 th December 2011 after the conclusion of the arrangement of a common project GOLDEN DECIBEL - *Décibel d'Or* in the Czech Parliament in autumn 2012.



*On the left: With the President of French APREA (Association Professionnelle des Réalisateurs d'Ecrans Acoustiques), Mr. Gilles Giora. On the right: After 4 year since his visit in Prague again with Mr. Erik Aflalo, the Urban Noise Monitoring Manager.*



*The three from the group which met for the first dialogues about European Noise Observatory's establishment in Paris, 2005, Mr. Jean-Marc Abramowitch, the Section Director for the Environment of the French company Scetauroute, nowadays EGIS, Ms. Alice Debonnet – Lamber, the Director of the French Le Centre d'information et de documentation sur le bruit (CIDB) and Mr. Ivo Vaněk, the President of the NNO. The man on the right is the Assistant to Mr. Ivo Vaněk, Mr. Martin Šimbera.*

In January 2012, the NNO managed to organize the National anti-noise council in Brno which was visited by 82 anti-noise citizens associations and deputies of the town halls of affected Czech towns.



*Mr. Ivo Vaněk, the President of the NNO, during the opening speech*



The council delegates were greeted via the videoconference by **Mr. Krzysztof Pierzchala**, the Member of the Acoustic Section of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the President of the Polish Anti-Noise Association and the Representative of the Polish Republic in the European Noise Barrier Federation (ENBF), who, in his speech, shared his experience with the Polish bureaucracy which has historically the same roots as the Czech bureaucracy but on the other hand, he praised Poland that only in 2010-2012 will invest over € 250 million into highway noise barriers.

**Mr. Giovanni Brero**, the Representative of Associazione Costruttori Acciaio Italiani (ACAI), the Representative of Italy in the group of the European Committee for Technical Standardization (CEN) and the Vice-President of ENBF expressed to the council participants his deep regret about the abuse of laws for the technical standards enforcement in the contradiction with the opinions of professional public.

**Ms. Ana Paula Marques**, the Representative of Associação Nacional de Empresas de Acustica (ANEA) and the Representative of Portugal in ENBF, connected from Porto to express support to Brno council participants from her Portuguese colleagues.

The performance of **Mr. Dámaso M. Alegre Marradese** from Madrid, realized through the videoconference, was very important part. Dámaso Alegre is the President of the Spanish Asociación Nacional de Industriales de Pantallas y dispositivos Anti-ruido (ANIPAR), the Representative of Spain in the group of the European Committee for Technical Standardization (CEN) and the President of ENBF. Dámaso Alegre called on the Brno council participants for unity and offered his support and cooperation in all professional matters that Czech professional and general public solve on the way to standardization of procedures for the measurement and evaluation of the noise in the environment.



The council confirmed the will of all people present after unification and coordination of efforts to reduce a noise and achieve a better legal environment for the application of the constitutional rights of citizens for the health and healthy environment.

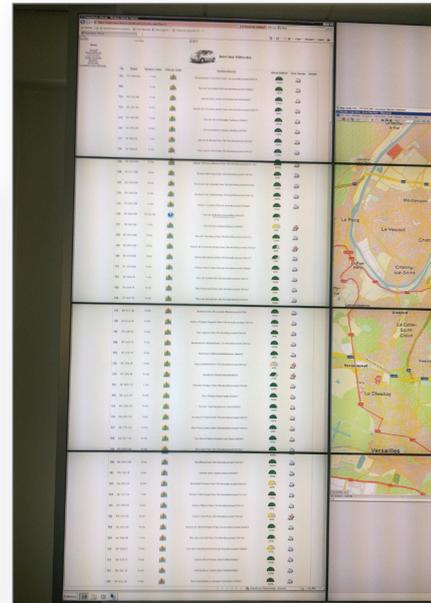
The council appointed **Mr. Ivo Vaněk**, the President of the NNO, and **Mr. Josef Novák**, the Chairman of the citizens association Stop the noise – Kolínsko, as spokespersons.

*The presence of one of the most important Czech lawyers, the specialist in environmental law and the Member of the Legislative Council of the Government of the Czech Republic, Ms. Dr. Alena Bányaiová, was the great support and help to the council participants*

In February 2012, the President of the NNO, Mr. Ivo Vaněk, was thoroughly familiarized with the project Folk electric cars hire in Paris, which was realized by the group BOLLORÉ for the Ile de France (12 million inhabitants).

*Motto of the project:*

***To change the relationship of man to the city car.  
He does not have to own it, but comfortably use it.***



*The dispatching of the car hire in Vaucresson near Versailles.*

On 8 February 2012, Mr. Cédric Bolloré presented the project of the folk electric cars hire including the electric car drive and visit of the dispatching to the President of the NNO, Mr. Ivo Vaněk, at headquarters in Vaucresson near Versailles. The partners agreed to offer the same model also to Prague and Central Bohemia Region.



*Mr. Cédric Bolloré*

On 10 February 2012, the negotiations with Mr. Patrick le Coeur, the Deputy of the Secretary Mayor of Paris for transport, Mr. Denise Baupin, and Mr. Marcelino Pera, the Project Manager of SyndicateMixteAutolib (the Director Mr. Sylvain Marty) were held in Paris. Mr. Ivo Vaněk was again informed about the project of the Folk electric car hire by its operator, the Paris City Hall, through the company AUTOLIB.



*The sample charging station and the electric car BELLORÉ at the headquarters of the dispatching in Vauresson near Versailles*



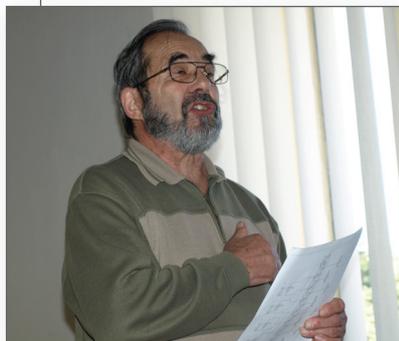
autolib'

*And one of the thousands of electric charging stations in Paris*

At a public hearing at the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic in September 2012, the NNO together with representatives of 15 the strongest anti-noise citizens associations and noise affected cities and towns of the Czech Republic achieved this, that the Law of noise in the form drawn up by the Ministry of Health was not handed over to the Czech Parliament for discussion. The NNO is a place for legislative comments of the Czech Government through the Ministry of Health.



*Left photo: The public hearing was chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Martin Plíšek. Right photo: A stormy exchange of opinions between the President of NNO, Mr. Ladislav Kunert (since 2012), the founder of the NNO and the President of BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Mr. Ivo Vaněk, and the Deputy Minister of Health, Mr. Martin Plíšek.*



*Chairmen of anti-noise citizens associations criticized the draft of the anti-noise law made by the Ministry of Health of the Czech Republic as well as its authors.*



*Mr. Josef Drahotka, the Acoustic Expert, certified by the American Aircraft Association, professionally argued against all comments of the Chairmen of the anti-noise citizens associations, and it was apparent that the draft of the anti-noise law is without a chance in the Parliament.*



In March 2013, the NNO organized, especially for citizens of Prague – Spořilov, the workshop on the implementation of the plan to reduce noise and air pollution from traffic in the territory of Prague 4.

The President of the NNO, Mr. Ladislav Kunert, along with the President of BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Mr. Ivo Vaněk, familiarized the participants with the planned construction of noise measures and other activities to reduce noise and air pollution.

The presentation of the flame-resistant polycarbonate MOKROLON, which was made by the Technical Director of the Belgian company BAYER MaterialScience, Mr. Fabrice Albrechts, was considered as the most important achievement during the workshop. Representatives of the General Directorate of Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic, as well as the leadership of the Fire Brigade of the City of Prague, were very intensely interested in the material, as if the words on the characteristics of this material were confirmed and it could be used in the construction of lightweight roofing of the Spořilovská street, there would be saving more than 50% of the planned costs.



*Today, the Deputy Mayor of Prague, Mr. Jiří Nouza, assured the workshop participants that the Prague Municipality will make efforts to return a life of ease and clean air to the citizens of Prague - Spořilov, as proposed by the NNO. He has the highest political competence and the NNO publicly made a commitment at the workshop to effectively help him in that.*

Left photo: Spořilov belongs to people, not cars! Right photo: the illustration of the proposed solution to minimize health risks from noise and air pollution especially from truck traffic for the inhabitants of Prague – Spořilov, which was made by the NNO. The transit truck traffic across the Czech Republic was diverted into the Spořilovská street. That changed life of many thousands of local people in a living hell.



The citizens of Prague Spořilov were informed about the workshop in time by hundreds of leaflets, which the NNO (in the photo – the Assistant Ms. Alžběta Králová) posted on their own around the entire district.

The NNO closely supervises the quality of ecological buildings and provides expert opinions of the cause of incidents and accidents



*From the point of view of the health hazards during burning, the choice of materials for anti-noise barriers is one of the most important criteria of design solutions. Lobbying, despite the experts, often ignores it.*



*The sample of absolutely elementary unprofessionalism of anti-noise barriers installers on Slovak R1 expressway between Nitra and Banská Bystrica. EPDM gasket, which has to close off the space between the bridge deck and anti-noise panel is up, a gap of at least 50-70 mm high remains down.*



*Left photo: The construction of anti-noise barriers on Slovak R1 expressway between Nitra and Banská Bystrica. Escape doors are recessed 25 cm below the roadside. Right photo: What the Road and Highway Directorate of the Czech Republic is willing to approve as structural solution of anti-noise barriers, if there is a „above-standard will.“ In this case, the transparent PMMA plate on the D5 highway between Prague and the German Nuremberg can easily leave an anti-noise barrier and fall in front of a passing bus when wind gusts.*

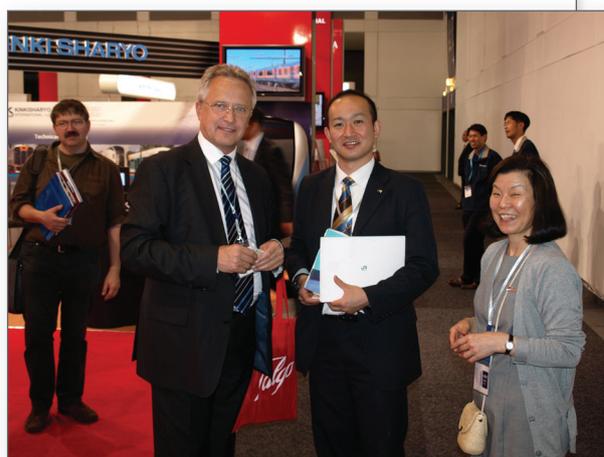


*The control of non-standard inset of aluminum anti-noise panels into reinforced concrete supporting columns on the D1 highway between Brno and Ostrava.*

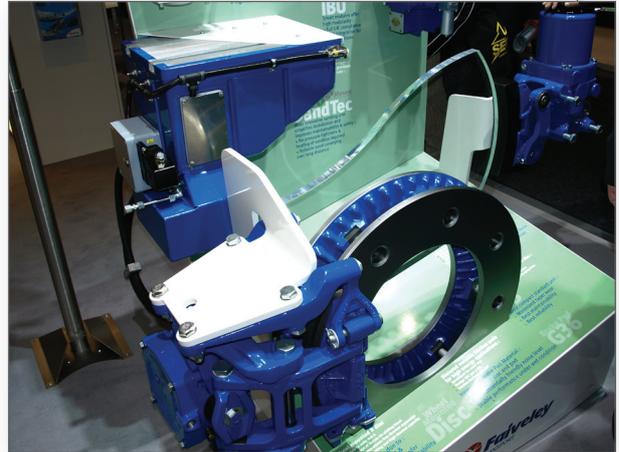
The NNO traditionally participates in many significant ecological, transport and energy conferences and trade fairs and monitors the technology news around the world.



Left photo: Spatial acoustic camera, Berlin, Germany 2010 Right photo: Solar car NUNA 5, Intertraffic Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2012



Left photo: The introduction of the comprehensive public transport network in Spanish Barcelona, Intertraffic Amsterdam, The Netherlands 2012 Right photo: Group photo of the President of the NNO, Mr. Ivo Vaněk, with the Vice-President Hiroyuki Watanabe of East Japan Railway Company, after negotiations on cooperation in the construction of high-speed railway lines in the Czech Republic. Berlin, Innotrans, Germany 2010



Left photo: The Assistant to the Vice-President of the East Japan Railway Company familiarized the Assistant to the President of NNO, Mr. Martin Šimbera, with the individual operated lines of the East Japan Railway Company. Right photo: The NNO delegation was familiarized with the most efficient rail brakes at the Inno-Trans Berlin, Germany, 2010.



Intertraffic Amsterdam, the Netherlands 2010



Dortmund, Germany 2010



Rome 2011



Brno 2012



*The program of the electric cars development of the company SIEMENS in the Czech Republic*

In October 2012, the NNO attended the meeting of the Committee on Health of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament. One of the main points was the discussion of the draft of the noise law made by the Minister of Health of the Czech Republic.



*Left photo: The President of the NNO, Mr. Ladislav Kunert, is greeting with the Minister of Health, Mr. Leoš Heger, before the negotiations. Right photo: The Vice-Chairman, Mr. Dr. Jaroslav Krákora, the MP, the Minister of Health Dr. Leoš Heger, the Deputy Chief Health Officer of the Czech Republic, Ms. Viera Šedivá, the Deputy Ombudsman of the Czech Republic Ms. Dr. Jitka Seitlová, the Committee Member, Mr. Dr. Jiří Štětina, the MP.*



*Left photo: Mr. Ladislav Kunert, the President of the NNO, is explaining to the Committee on Health why the draft of the Noise Law made by the Ministry of Health is bad. Right photo: The Deputy Ombudsman of the Czech Republic, Ms. Jitka Seitlová, surrounded by noise activists.*

The NNO also closely monitors the work of the French botanist Mr. Patrick Blanc. His Vertical Garden can be described as the garden architecture of the 21st century, these are, without reservation, works of art in connection with the architect Mr. Jean Nouvel.



*Left photo: The famous Parisian department store BHV Homme. The wall is designed to catch attention of the passers-by at first sight. It brings life and color to the otherwise shaded narrow streets. Right photo: The unique application of the growing wall is Musée du quai Brandy - MUSÉE DES PREMIERS ARTS in Paris.*



The NNO was the Representative of the Czech Republic in the European Noise Barrier Federation (ENBF) based in Brussels in the years 2010 – 2013.



*April 2011, the meeting in the ENBF headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. The delegations of Belgium, the European Union, Spain, France, the Czech Republic, Italy and Poland.*



*February 2012. Meeting of the ENBF in the APREA headquarters in Paris, France, consisted of delegations of the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Italy, Belgium, Spain, France, Poland and the representative of the European Union.*



*The ENBF was founded on the initiative of the European Union Road Federation. At first, it seemed meaningful to participate in the negotiations of the ENBF and to co-ordinate, regulate, and cultivate the struggle with the noise in the environment in different European countries. The representatives of the participating countries are very friendly, but because the ENBF have not moved anywhere for three years, the NNO decided to withdraw from the ENBF in 2013.*

In Brno, the civil activists' dispute for the extent and quality of anti-noise measures at the construction site of the Dobrovský tunnels took place from the middle of last decade. In the spring of 2011, the President of the NNO, Mr. Ivo Vaněk, was asked to become a negotiator between conflicting parties, and to try to reconcile the Road and Highway Directorate of the Czech Republic with civil activists. He accepted the offer and after 4 months the non-aggression pact was signed. It can be assumed that the civil activists have benefitted from it more and better noise and traffic organizational measures than originally imagined. As the counterweight of the concessions of the Road and Highway Directorate of the Czech Republic, the civic activists pledged to withdraw the legal actions and the tunnel construction will be completed.

In 2012, the reconstruction of the main Czech highway between Prague and Brno was launched in the length of 163 km. The project was very poorly prepared by the Road and Motorway Directorate of the Czech Republic that has been still reflected to extraordinary events that occur daily on the route. From the start, the NNO was a vocal critic of unsystematic decision of the Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic which returned the Czech Republic about 50 years by its rejection of increasing the capacity to the six-lane highway and deprived the citizens of the Czech Republic of at least € 1 billion yearly from the toll. The NNO became a party to the building control and in each case asserts at least partial changes in the project for the benefit of the environment and the health of the local population. With dozens of mayors of the affected villages, Mr. Ivo Vaněk personally discussed the „Ten Commandments of Conditions“ that mayors should request before issuing a building permit:

## Ten Commandments of Conditions

### „Alliance of Villages affected by reconstruction of D1 Highway“

1. Make a technical inventory of public and private property by an independent judicial body to assess changes and economic assessment of the damage before starting the work as well as at the end of the reconstruction.
2. Before starting the work, guarantee the reserve of CZK 2.6 billion from the state budget to repair the damaged public and private property (10% of the planned reconstruction costs).
3. Before starting the work, discuss and deal with each detour of the reconstructed sections.
4. Before starting the work and during the reconstruction of D1, make traffic census of detours.
5. Make an agreement of taking responsibility of the state during the time of the reconstruction D1 + 3 years for the breakdown of underground utilities (water, sewerage, gas, electricity, internet, cable TV, etc.).
6. Before starting the work, discuss and deal with dumps of waste and auxiliary materials of the construction, their capacities and time of use.
7. Plan the reconstruction of D1 at all sections on the legal hygienic noise limits 60/50 dB.
8. Develop a methodology of traffic census for assessing traffic noise according to the European standards by the end of 2013. Model: ÖAL – Richtlinie – RVS 04-02.11, the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Environment and Water Management.
9. Develop and from the beginning of the reconstruction D1 implement the Security plan of threatened inhabitants protection:
  - Continuous monitoring of noise, air pollution, surface water and groundwater
  - Reduce of speed in villages to 30 km / h
  - Section gauging of speed with exemplary penalties for speeding
  - Pedestrian crossings with traffic lights
  - Crossroads with traffic lights
  - Speed bumps
  - Mobile WC and sanitary equipment
  - 7/24 hr the presence of Traffic Police of the Police of the Czech Republic in every village
  - 7/24 hr the presence of emergency services in every village
  - Continuous supervision of the implementation of the Security plan of threatened inhabitants protection
10. Before starting the work, determine financial compensation for inhabitants of threatened villages, to which the health harm was caused (eg. CZK 100 thousand for light injury, CZK 1 million for severe injury) and for survivors in case of death (eg. CZK 10 million).

Until the Road and Highway Directorate of the Czech Republic will not undertake to fulfill the Ten Commandments of Conditions AVH, threatened villages will not allow the transit of vehicles from the reconstructed highway D1.



*The Assistant Alžběta Králová during distributing of information to inhabitants of the municipalities, in which the traffic will be diverted in the case of the traffic closure at the D1 highway, how they should prepare for such a situation.*



*Width of roads near the highway D1 is barely 6 m and their use in the traffic diversion into the detours would be disastrous for the population. Nevertheless, the Road and Motorway Directorate of the Czech Republic did not discuss the conditions, under which it would be possible, with the only village.*

**In the long term, the NNO cooperates intensively and successfully exchanges experience with:**

1. Le Centre d'information et de documentation sur le bruit (CIDB), Paris, France,  
**Ms. Alice Debonnet – Lambert**, the Director of the CIDB
2. The French Ministry of the Environment, sustainable development, transport and housing,  
**Mr. Pascal Valentin**, the General Manager of the physical risks
3. The French National Noise Council,  
**Mr. Gérard Cambon**, the General Secretary
4. The Paris Noise Observatory, The City Hall Paris, France
5. The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management,  
**Mr. Helfried Gartner**, the Head of V5, department, transport / mobility / residential complexes / noise
6. The City of Vienna, Austria, division 37, the Building Police

A new chapter in the life of the NNO occurred in 2012, when the presidium decided to start preparing the program BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE. The first international conference, which took place to the program of shared responsibility for the quality life in cities, was held on 12 and 13 May 2014 in Prague.



*Mr. Ibraheem Jaafar Hamzah is giving the President of BETTER CITIES FOR BETTER LIFE, Prague 2014 Mr. Ivo Vaněk the Golden Palm, the gift from the Mayor of Baghdad, HE Mr. Naemm Abaob.Alkaabi. The Mayor of Baghdad did not participated in the 2nd day of the conference due to his deteriorated state of health.*

A significant change has been in the leadership of the National Noise Observatory of the Czech Republic, as it turned out, that the appointment (2012) of the uneducated politician Mr. Ladislav Kunert to the important function of the President of the National Noise Observatory of the Czech Republic had very bad consequences on running professional organization. He was removed from office and expelled from the NNO a year later after the decision of the top management.