



In Memoriam

Marios Kontaratos

1.1.1957 12.10.2007

The international transportation community and *ATS* readers regret the premature pass-away of Marios Kontaratos, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the National Technical University of Athens, Greece after a long and tough fight with his serious illness.

Mario Kontaratos was a passionate transportation engineer full of enthusiasm, energy and dedication for every innovating aspect of the profession. After a short period of practical activities in transportation engineering as well surveying Marios Kontaratos dedicated his full energy from 1989 in the field of applying new technologies in transportation. Through various positions either in the public or the private sector he was directly involved in all parts of the DRIVE I/II, VALOREN, ATT, SAVE, and THERMIE Programs of the EU while at the same time he was the delegate of the City of Athens, Greece, in the EU Programs TELEMATIQUE and JOULE II and in the European Networks of POLIS and CITELEC. Beyond many internal and final reports of these programs his name is mentioned in English in many other papers and conference presentations. His preferred scientific interests in the last years was the development of appropriate measurement schemes for traffic data acquisition and analysis by expanding his capabilities earned also as a surveying engineer.

Marios Kontaratos went through every issue of the *ATS* journal. Despite his weakness in the last months, his enthusiasm and passion for our profession gave him the strength and courage to write his last paper on “The moving observer method revisited” which he wanted it published in the *ATS* journal. He did not have the chance to see it printed. Every reader of this last paper of him will feel his continuous unrest for innovation, improvement and technological advancement of transportation.

Marios Kontaratos survives through his beloved wife and two sons. And his many friends, colleagues and students have many reasons to remember him. For his social engagement, his continuous optimism and unprecedented humor, his personal support and finally his scientific and engineering prosperity he was provided with.

Basil Psarianos, Professor, National Technical University of Athens, Greece
Editorial Board *ATS*

When we started the fantastic adventure to publish an international journal,

when we shared the enthusiasm, the project and the ideas for the future, launching *Advances in Transportation Studies*, today known as *ATS* in many parts of the world,

when we were only a few, humble, but with a common and pervasive aim: to contribute to the dissemination of researches, results and applications in the field of transportation,

we could have expected some good and encouraging results, as journal diffusion and *ATS* community increasing: it is happening,

but a great and unpredicted honor, that makes our responsibility stronger, is that a respectable researcher like Marios Kontaratos wanted to publish his last paper in this journal,

we want to remember him through his job, his papers and his contributions to the transportation sector, thanking him for having helped the journal and us with his knowledge.

Andrea Benedetto, Professor, University Roma Tre, Rome, Italy
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