

Message from Prof. Michael Taroudakis

President of EAA

Dear Colleagues, Dear European Acousticians, Dear Friends

Last year was another stop in the march of a changing Europe. Europe is facing several financial and social problems especially in the south. I am sure that all of us believe that education, research and technology are the three poles upon which we have to invest in order to get the fruits of development and help in the changing of our lives towards a better Europe. On the other hand, the development has to be friendly to the citizens and the environment. Acoustics play an important role in this aspect. Acousticians are striving to make the environment quieter and the quality of sound reaching the human ear excellent from every aspect. At the same time, acousticians are studying the use of sound as carrier of information for a variety of applications including medical sector, geology, etc., and recently in the Smart Cities technologies. Acoustics is present in almost every part of our life.

The European Acoustics Association plays the role of the co-ordinator among the National Societies representing the people who are active in all aspects of acoustics and its activities are oriented towards bringing the scientists together in order to join efforts for a better environment but also towards the sensitization of the authorities, the citizens and especially the young people against problems of noise. All these objectives dictated the activities of EAA during the last year. 2013 was a year full of events organized centrally by EAA or by the National Societies. Moreover EAA was actively involved in the International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) and the Initiative for Science in Europe (INSE). Our representatives there had the chance to present the aspects of the European acousticians in relation to the international coordination of acoustics and the science in general.

As a short report of the past year, I pick-up three of the main activities of EAA for 2013, which are presented below:

1. ACOUSTICS IN PRACTICE.

This is our new journal. We expect that AiP will come out to be a useful tool for all the acousticians as it publishes articles on a variety of subjects not necessarily related to the pure research but also to the use of what we know about acoustics, for practical applications. The two first issues of the journal already appeared in our site last year and recently the third issue is on-line. (<https://www.euracoustics.org/activities/acoustics-in-practice>). I encourage all the acousticians to submit articles to our new journal and I would like to thank the editor

in chief Colin English, the editorial assistant Monika Rychtarikova and the editing coordinator Miguel Ausejo for undertaking the main task of bringing the new journal to reality and maintain an excellent product, as well as all the members of the editorial board for their contribution in the editing and reviewing process. I hope that soon we will have statistics on the readability of the journal which, as I hope, will prove the positive reception of the journal among our individual members.

2. MERANO

The Conference held in Merano was a major event for Europe and especially for EAA. The German Acoustical Society, DEGA and the Italian Acoustics Association, AIA joined forces to organize a very successful conference a winter school and a course on approaching acoustics for young acousticians. The events were held in the beautiful town of Merano in North Italy from 18-21 March 2013. More than 1500 conference participants and 130 young acousticians who attended the winter school, marked the biggest event of Acoustics in Europe for 2013, which got the label of Euroregio. Also, Merano hosted the EAA General Assembly and the elections of the new EAA board for the term 2013-2016. Many thanks to the two Acoustical Societies and all the key-persons involved in the parallel events for offering to the EAA a landmark for the future.

3. VALLADOLID

Valladolid (Spain) for 4 days between 1 and 4 October 2013, became the capital of Acoustics in Europe. Three parallel events were held these days namely the 44th Spanish Congress on Acoustics, the Iberian Meeting on Acoustics and the EAA European Symposium in Environmental Acoustics and Noise Mapping. The Spanish Acoustical Society was the main organizer assisted by the Portuguese Acoustical Society. All the events were very successful bringing together acousticians from most European countries, while of significant importance was the active participation in the events and the real interest of the local authorities for problems related to environmental noise. The Spanish Acoustical Society hosted the EAA Board and Executive Council meeting and I would like to thank them for all the arrangements.

For 2014 several activities are foreseen. We will have the chance to present them in our future newsletters. Of particular interest is the celebration of the **International Noise Awareness Day (INAD 2014)**. For the year 2014 this day is **April 30**, and many of our member Societies have already started to make their plans.

Finally, just a reminder that our major event for 2014 is the **FORUM ACUSTICUM** to be held in **Krakow, Poland 7-12 September 2013**. The organizers informed us that the new deadline for the submission of abstracts to regular and structured sessions

is the **28nd of February**. Keep this date in your calendar and of course the dates of the Conference.

With my warmest wishes to all of you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Taroudakis', with a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Taroudakis

President of EAA

