

Dear European Acousticians, Dear Friends

It has been an honor and privilege for me to serve the European Acoustics Association (EAA) as President of the board for the term 2013-2016. Now, that the term has been over, I would like to thank all the National Acoustical Societies of Europe for their continuous support and their involvement in the activities of the EAA. The EAA has been established under the goal of promoting the science of acoustics and the collaboration among the acousticians in Europe and the rest of the world. Our products have been developed in such a way that the objectives of EAA are fulfilled in many ways. The efforts of the past board were focused on the further development of our products and on the increasing involvement of our members in them. I believe that, at closing of our term, it is worthwhile to provide a brief report on the EAA board activities during the period 2013-2016.

We are publishing an excellent scientific journal: Acta Acustica united with Acustica (AA-A). Thanks to the efforts of all the past editors-in-chief and the current editor-in-chief **Jean Kergomard** the journal is continuously developing and its impact factor is increasing. Now the journal faces the challenges of the open-access concept and the board started all the necessary actions and negotiations with our publisher Hirzel Verlag to meet them.

The on-line journal Acoustics in Practice has been launched and it was well received by the acoustics community. Addressed mainly to practitioners, it is an important forum for promoting ideas not necessarily of pure research impact, but of great interest for the acoustics market. We are waiting for the stabilization of this new product, and we own many thanks to the first editor-in-chief **Collin English** for undertaking the difficult task to start and assign a scientific signature to it.

All the Conferences organized or sponsored by EAA during the past term have been a success: In particular, Forum Acusticum 2014 in Krakow, Euronoise 2015 in Maastricht and Euroregio 2016 in Porto were attended by many scientists and thanks to the efforts of the organizing National Societies (Polish for Forum Acusticum 2014, Dutch and Belgian for Euronoise 2015 and Portuguese and Spanish for Euroregio 2016), the quality of both the scientific and social part has been kept at high standards. Now we are looking forward to our next scheduled meetings: Forum Acusticum 2017 in Boston jointly organized with the Acoustical Society of America and Euronoise 2018 in Crete organized by the Hellenic Institute of Acoustics. We are waiting proposals for Euroregio 2019 and Forum Acusticum 2020. Finally we have to report on the continuous support of the EAA to regional or thematic conferences organized in collaboration with our National Societies.

EAA is continuously supporting the young acousticians, as we believe that the investment in the future is of primary importance. EAA has supported the Young Acousticians Network (YAN) by encouraging their involvement in all the activities of EAA and we are happy that **Cristina Zamorano** and other YAN Board Members during our term have been very active and successful in the enlargement of the network. We have been able to provide awards and travel grants to young acousticians for participation and presentation of their work in Conferences organized by EAA, under the additional sponsorship of the Klaus Genuit Foundation. EAA is organizing a Summer School addressed to young acousticians in connection with the Euroregio and this year it has been held in Porto with a wide

participation of young acousticians, mainly master and doctoral students. The lectures covered a wide range of modern and emerging topics in acoustics. In addition, EAA has kept active the product Schola with continuous updates, providing information on acoustic studies in Europe. Thanks to **Malte Kob**, Schola product manager, the product is continuously under development and further information will be included in the future helping the interested young students to decide about their future in acoustics education.

As we believe that the continuous exchange of information is very important among the European Acousticians, we tried to keep the EAA web-page updated and I would like to thank **Olivier Dazel**, Fenestra product manager until this summer, for keeping the flow of information at a stable rate and providing all the hardware and software support for that. Thanks to Olivier, all the problems we faced with the servers and the associated software were solved almost immediately.

In addition we kept the regular issue of our newsletter Nuntius thanks to the continuous efforts of the editor **Kristian Jambrosic** and his assistant **Evelyne Dewayse**. By means of our newsletter, all our member societies and individual acousticians receive news on EAA and the acoustics activities in Europe every month. We still expect more contribution to this newsletter from our member societies but I have to thank all the societies and the individual members who have provided input so far to this important EAA product.

Documenta provides information and published material (Proceedings on acoustics, free books, Doctoral theses etc.) to everybody. **Sergio Luzzi**, our product manager, has put a lot of effort to stabilize and further develop our product which faced in previous years a transition from paper to electronic publishing. He has done a nice job to provide our members the files and data which have been available to us and set-up a database of all these items.

With respect to pure administrative issues we have to remind you of the changes of the internal regulations of the EAA which have been suggested by the board and approved in the General Assembly held in Maastricht in 2015. These regulations aimed at the clarification and necessary up-date of some issues in relation to the EAA products, but most important on the regulations related to the Technical Committees (TCs), as we believe that it is absolutely necessary that the TCs undertake a more active role in the activities of the EAA in relation to their thematic areas. We hope that, when the new regulations will be in full effect, a further enhancement of the scientific impact of EAA in various fields of acoustics will be obtained.

During our term, besides the EAA awards presented in Krakow to **Michael Vorländer** and **Luigi Maffei**, for their contribution to the acoustics in Europe, and **Michel Bruneau** for his lifetime achievements in acoustics, we decided to give an extra award to **Leo Beranek** on the occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. I had the honor to present to Leo this award during the ASA meeting in Indianapolis in fall 2014.

From the scientific point of view, our board has decided to focus on environmental issues related to acoustics. Main areas of interest include, among others, noise, psychoacoustics, soundscapes, architectural acoustics and of course all underlying areas supporting in general

the science of acoustics. We believe that we deserve to live in a better environment with optimum perception of sound. In this respect we paid attention to raise the awareness of people to noise. Therefore, besides our support each year to the initiatives of our National Societies in relation to the Noise Awareness Day, we decided to consider the year 2017 as the year to emphasize on noise awareness and problems due to noise, using as a basic drive the Noise Awareness Day (April 2017). We started negotiations with the EC-DG Environment for the support of this initiative and the perspectives of getting their sponsorship are very positive. In any case we have formed a committee for the celebration, which will coordinate the related activities on European and national levels. We expect in this respect active contributions from all our member Societies next year.

In addition, we supported the idea of the International Year of Sound (IYS) that originated from the International Commission for Acoustics (ICA). ICA is in the process of convincing UNESCO to determine 2019 as the IYS and EAA is participating in the related campaign providing financial and personal support. If IYS is approved, EAA and the new board will have additional tasks to undertake.

Finally we sponsored the production of the documentary film “in Pursuit of Silence” as we believed that its screening will contribute to the awareness of the people on noise issues. According to the contract we have signed with the film producers, we will be allowed to show the film in a couple of our events and also to get a video clip for permanent use. The film has already been released and maybe some of you have already seen it.

Closing this short report on EAA activities during the period 2013-2016, I wish to thank my colleagues at the Board who helped me so much in carrying out my duties:

**Jean Kergomard**, Vice President at the previous board, former President of EAA and Editor-in-Chief of AA-A with whom I had a continuous and fruitful collaboration in many issues of EAA, **Tapio Lokki**, General Secretary of EAA who despite his research obligations did a marvelous job in providing secretarial support to our many administrative duties and coordinated all the processes for the young acousticians grants, **Mats Abom**, Vice President who, besides his administrative duties, undertook the task to prepare in collaboration with our American colleagues the major event of Forum Acusticum 2017 to be held in Boston, **Salvador Santiago**, our treasurer for keeping the financial issues of EAA at an exceptionally professional and transparent level. Finally, I have to express my gratitude to the Director of our office in Madrid, **Antonio Perez-Lopez**. Antonio has been the supporter of EAA for many years. His experience and his clear view on the simple and complicated matters helped me and the board to confront difficulties and take the most appropriate decisions.

Finally I would like to thank once more all our Product Managers, already mentioned in this report. Their help, devotion and efficiency, were (and still are) absolutely necessary for the success of our Association activities. Best wishes also for the new Product Managers, **Luc Jaouen** (Fenestra) and **Miguel Asuejo** (Acoustics in Practice). They are both very energetic and determined persons and I am sure that they will succeed in their missions.

The new board starts now their duties. Both the members of the board and myself, express our sincere wishes for a successful term. We know that **Jorge Patricio**, new President of EAA,

**Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp and Giovanni Brambilla**, Vice Presidents, **Jerzy Wiciak** new General Secretary and **Salvador Santiago** are persons willing to move EAA forward and contribute to its further development. They all have the capacity and experience to do that and we promise to be on their side for everything they may need during their term. And of course **Antonio Perez Lopez** will remain in administration as Office Director providing the new board with his ideas and experience.

Thank you once more for your trust and support to our board and many warm wishes to all of you for your personal life and your professional carrier in the wonderful world of acoustics.

**Michael Taroudakis**

Professor

President of EAA for the term 2013-2016