

Dear Colleagues of the European Acoustical Societies

As you may remember, prior to EuroRegio2016 held in last June in the city of Porto, Portugal, a new EAA Board was elected for the term 2016-2019. This Board is composed by Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp, from Germany, Giovanni Brambilla, from Italy, Salvador Santiago, from Spain, Jerzy Wiciak, from Poland, and me, Jorge Patrício, from Portugal. We took over our mandate in last September, just after the ICA held in Buenos Aires.

It is an honour for all of us to serve the EAA in this tremendous challenge of pursuing the objectives and goals of the European Acoustics Association, duly stated in its by-laws ([https://euracoustics.org/about-aaa/statutes/statutes#Article\\_2](https://euracoustics.org/about-aaa/statutes/statutes#Article_2)).

In the last issue of Nuntius, a message from the former President of EAA, Michael Taroudakis, was published. That message clearly states what have been done during his presidency, what is underway, and some challenges for the future. On my behalf, and I think also shared by you, I thank the former Board of EAA, Michael Taroudakis, Jean Kergomard, Mats Åbom, Tapio Lokki, Salvador Santiago, as well as our EAA officer Antonio Pérez-López, for the excellent work they have done throughout their mandate. The same thank is due to all Product Managers, Technical Committee Chairs, and at the last but not the least, to all National Societies and respective members, because they are in fact the real core of EAA.

We are deeply committed to continue and improve the work done, to increase the presence of EAA at European and worldwide level, to involve and develop the common exchange of international interests of national societies, to create synergies between European acousticians, to make EAA more visible national and internationally, to attract young students for acoustics arena, to promote acoustics within the communities, populations, researchers, academics, etc., thus promoting and develop this scientific discipline for the benefit of all society as a whole.

Despite these general ideas, some important matters are already waiting for us. Next year, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017, it will be held, in Boston, one of the most important EAA products, the FORUM ACUSTICUM 2017, jointly with the 173<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America. For this event Mats Åbom, former EAA Vice-president, and Philippe Blanc-Benon undertook a lot of the tasks to prepare this FORUM. The most part of EAA technical committees are deeply involved in the organization of special structures sessions, and we'll expect a large participation of European Colleagues, enhancing the visibility of EAA.

Concerning Acta Acustica united with Acustica (AA-A), the journal is continuously developing and its impact factor is increasing (it is now 0.897). However, the journal faces the challenges of the open-access concept. Our colleague Jean Kergomard, its editor-in-chief, who has done, as the previous one did, a tremendous and important work to promote the journal, is tackling this procedure. But some actions and negotiations need to be taken with our publisher Hirzel Verlag to have a good agreement on this new frame for the journal.

Another relevant commitment in which the EAA is also involved is that associated to INAD 2017. For such, it was established a Committee aiming to propose, organize and develop, a set of activities related to the celebration of this International Noise Awareness Day, in collaboration with the European Commission (we hope) and all the National Societies. This committee, composed by Sérgio Luzzi, Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp, Michael Taroudakis and Antonio Pérez-López, is working diligently to have an extraordinary and remarkable INAD2017. We think the film EAA have sponsored "in Pursuit of Silence"

will play an important role in this regard for it will certainly contribute for the awareness of people to noise problems and their respective effects.

We intend to increase the activities and to improve the organization and involvement of EAA Technical Committees in the various tasks they could be associated to, as well as to attract the submissions of more technical and scientific contributions for the EAA product *Acoustics in Practice*, which is coordinated from now on by Miguel Ausejo as its new editor-in-chief.

The International Year of Sound (IYS) scheduled for 2019, is another important item for EAA. The International Commission for Acoustics (ICA) is leading the initiative towards gaining the approval by the UNESCO for the International Year of Sound, and EAA is also participating in this process. We will do whatever we can for the success of this endeavour.

Our webpage is now being re-designed by Luc Jaouen, the new EAA web manager. Please visit it, comment it if you think improvements could be made, use it for promotion of EAA activities and to give information to the members of National Societies, like the job offer section and EAA products, and contribute by sending news or other material you think could be of interest to others, thus creating a network of information exchange.

But more exists! The *Nuntius*, passionately coordinated by Kristian Jambrošić, will continue its mission of extreme interest for society's members on a monthly basis edition. In this regard, I can't refrain myself to remind all National Societies to forward every issue to its members, inviting also them to contribute more actively with news or other relevant information for this newsletter. Concerning *Schola*, Malte Kob takes care of an informative system with almost 400 courses from 17 countries. This is an incomparable media to provide more education possibilities. The National Societies can play an important role on this, by informing Universities or other institutions that they can make their courses on acoustics internationally known through this system. Not forgetting *Documenta* (another EAA product coordinated by Sergio Luzzi), all these information platforms strongly contribute for the promotion, credibility and excellence of EAA. Therefore, it is important to maintain and, whenever possible, to improve their functionality and attractiveness. In relation to the YAN "Young Acousticians Network", chaired by Cristina Zamorano, I want to stress the extraordinary involvement and work it has provided for the promotion and "sustainability" of EAA, not only in Europe, but also around the world. It is astonishing to notice that YAN has 720 members from 61 different countries. This is a good example of what an association should be and what it should take into account for the renovation of its future. We hope YAN will become stronger and stronger in the years to come.

Time runs fast, and despite addressing many actions for 2017, we should start thinking in 2018, for it will be the year for EURONOISE2018 that is to be held in Crete, Greece, 27<sup>nd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> of May 2018.

Finally let me draw your attention to the call for proposals to organize the EuroRegio2019 and FORUM ACUSTICUM 2020, which open until December 31<sup>st</sup>.

On my behalf, and on the whole board, I thank you very much for trusting on us to tackle these challenges. We count on all of you to be part of this endeavour and to contribute for its success!

Jorge Patrício

EAA President