



EAA

Mensaje del Presidente



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ACUSTICA united with acta acustica

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Message from the EAA Chairman

During this Season of Joy, and at the threshold of the third millennium, we should perhaps pause for a moment to reflect on all the things which together we have achieved. In less than a decade we have managed to bundle acoustical activities of 25 nations into the European Acoustics Association which, during the past year, helped organise the largest acoustical happening that has ever occurred anywhere in the world at any time.

The roots of the EAA go back about ten years. The first I personally found out about it was during the General Assembly meeting of FASE at Lake Balaton in the spring of 1991, when Dr. J. Blauert expressed the urgent need of European Acoustical Societies to have their own professional journal. In September of that year, the representatives of the German, French and British societies came together in St. Louis (Fr) and decided to start a high-quality refereed journal, covering all fields of acoustics, under the control of European acoustical societies. Its name was to be *acta acustica*. Exactly a year later, a somewhat larger group, representing eight European nations, convened in Paris and decided to form the EAA for the promotion of acoustics in Europe, specifically by publication of an acoustical journal. They contracted Editions de Physique for the production of *acta acustica*. Dr. F. P. Mechel was elected as EAA's first chairman (actually Speaker of the Assembly of EAA Members), Dr. A. Dancer as its first manager, and Dr. J. D. Polack as first editor-in-chief of *acta acustica*. Four months later, on January 8, 1993, the 2nd EAA Assembly met in Brussels where the EAA was formally established as an European Economic Interest Group (EEIG), with eleven societies (France, Germany, UK, Finland, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Italy) as founding members.

Since that moment the EAA has grown steadily, both in membership and in productivity. It currently has 25 member societies, representing almost 8000 European acousticians. A major milestone was the first FORUM ACUSTICUM in Antwerp in 1996, a tri-annual European acoustics congress, and a new EAA product.

At the general board meeting which was held during this congress, representatives unanimously voted for a union with FASE, recognising all its previous efforts and achievements for European acoustics, and vowing that these would be carried on within the new EAA structure. Other products like the EAA Symposia, DOCUMENTA ACUSTICA, the EAA Index and the web site FENESTRA ACUSTICA were developed. The EAA is clearly on its way to become the modern professional organisation that European acoustics deserves to have.

Nevertheless we should realise that there still are serious challenges that must be dealt with. Several young societies in reform countries of eastern Europe are still struggling to fulfil the requirements of full EAA membership. They need support and assistance until they can meet these requirements. More technical committees on specific acoustical specialities must be established, so that professionals of every branch of acoustics can meet each other regularly across language barriers, organise special professional events within Europe, and take charge of the specific program segments of FORUM ACUSTICUM. The TC on Room and Building Acoustics, founded this year in Berlin, was an excellent first step, but we need more. Last but not least, our Journal that has now reached such a high professional quality, must become available to all members of EAA societies at an affordable price.

Speaking also for the other members of the EAA Executive Board, may I wish you all a happy, productive and prosperous 2000.



*Adrian J.M. Houtsuma
Chairman, EAA Board*