



ELA

NEWS



QUARTERLY OF THE EUROPEAN LIFT ASSOCIATION

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# GETTING "NEW EUROPE" TO SPEED



by Jorge Ligüerre,  
Chairman,  
Communication Committee ELA

**ELA annual conference was dedicated this year to the European Enlargement, almost one year after the big bang, or let's say, after the "first" of the several big bangs to come.**

Enlarging simultaneously the Union to 10 new members, is quite a challenge, since the population of the Union jumped by 20%, from 380 to 450 million inhabitants. It is more than that of the United States of America, one third more actually.

The goal of the operation was of course to recover our European-wide identity after the division of the continent which followed the 2nd World War, but more practically, the goal was also to enlarge the European market and make it more competitive, to bet-

ter withstand the pressure of global competition which characterizes our times. Discrepancies between the 15 European countries before the Enlargement and the 10 new members were high and they also exist between the new members themselves.

A few figures illustrate these points :

- with respect to the population, the largest country is Poland, with about 38 Mio inhabitants, when the smallest is Malta with less than half a Mio - a ratio of 76.
- as far as the GDP/head is concerned, the minimum is for Latvia with 3,600 Euro/head and the maximum for Cyprus with 15,500 Euro/head - a ratio of 4.3.



Globally, for an average GDP of 100 for the 15 European countries in 2004, the Czech republic was at 62, Hungary at 55 and Poland at 43.

In other words, the wealth of the largest and most industrialized of the new members was roughly at half the wealth of countries such as Germany, France or the United Kingdom, which are all above the European average.

To close this gap, the economic growth rate in these countries should be higher than in Western Europe. Fortunately, this is the case today since they have a growth rate 2 times higher than in Western Europe (3% versus 1,5%).

It will take time to get the 2 parts of Europe on the same level. The time factor is an evidence that we can't neglect. The unification of Europe - and not the reunification as we often hear - is a major challenge.

This is a big gamble for us all now, since the European Commission decided early in the process, and I think it is right, that once the Enlargement was done, the new members were immediately full members,

like all others. No special structures have been set up to "pamper" them ! As an example, the present Commissioner for Enlargement, the Finn Olli Rehn only deals with the next wave of countries willing to join later, in 2007 for Romania and Bulgaria, and beyond for other candidate countries.

Consequently, the 10 countries of the first wave must by now have applied the whole "acquis communautaire", in other words, the whole set of legislation and rules that Europe installed over decades of functioning. For the new countries, it must be a very difficult task to do everything at the same time and to introduce the whole European legislation into their own national rules.

Our first impression is that they are doing fine, considering. At 4 % plus, economic growth figures are double in Central Europe of what they are in the West. On April 27th, the Polish lift association has organized a conference that regrouped many participants from all parties involved: ministries, certification bodies, standard-

ization institute, cooperatives of owners, university departments and of course the industry, to discuss the results of the filtering method applied as a first step of the introduction of SNEL in Poland. With some 80,000 lifts installed, often in a relatively bad state of repair, the new safety norm for existing lifts is a priority in Poland. In Hungary, our partner association organizes a two-day "Hungarian Elevator Conference" on June 9 and 10. On June 28th and 29th, it is the Heilbronn conference in Germany on the same topic, that will probably attract many people from Central Europe.

In other words our lift industry colleagues in the new member countries are bravely tackling the urgent need for the application of SNEL to their stock of existing lifts. ELA will help them to the best of its abilities. SNEL must be a success in Central Europe too.

Jorge Ligüerre

Chairman Communication Committee ELA

## ELA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2005



**For its annual General Assembly 2005 on March 17, ELA had chosen the SAS Radisson hotel in Brussels. The Conference organized on that occasion presented the first "wave" of the European enlargement to the 10 new member countries and its impact on the lift industry in Central Europe.**

All over Central Europe, new lift & escalator associations are being formed, and they are in the process of becoming members of ELA. The Czech, Hungarian and Polish associations are the first to join, but others are following.

For the new member states, the "big bang" was the culmination of the process of transferring into their own national legislation the whole set of directives, recommendations and other legislative documents that the European Union has produced over its long history. Quite a feat to complete this huge transfer in just a few years! Next to the full array of European legislation, the new member countries start to apply fully the set of CEN norms and standards, but there the integration was already well prepared, since most new members are members of CEN for many years and their national standardization



Kristian Hedberg, Cabinet of European Commissioner Olli Rehn (Enlargement) during his speech



Marek Oppeln-Bronikowski, MD for Kone in Poland speaks about the high rate of accidents in existing lifts

bodies have started the application long before May 1st, 2004.

After an introduction by the President of ELA, Richard Maiocchi, the first speaker of the day was Prof. Daniel Gros (D), an expert from the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS - Brussels) who spoke of the economics of the transition to a market economy from a macro-economic point of view. For Prof. Gros, the so-called "big bang" is only a point in time, in a long integration process that functions remarkably well. He stressed the fact that growth was much stronger in "new Europe", which was a good indicator of the catching-up phase in which we are. Prof. Gros estimates that the leveling will not happen before 1 or 2 generations from now, but that Europe is on the right path. He also stressed that the fear in the West of being overrun

by migrant workers from Central Europe has not happened. The regularization that took place in the UK for example was above all the fact of peo-

ple who were on British territory already. He also stressed the fact that the new member states would enjoy a better growth rate than the underdeveloped or stagnating regions within the 15 original European countries, despite the large structural funds injected in these regions such as the Mezzogiorno. This is because wages are the same in all regions of the 15 original EU countries, while the 10 new members enjoy a wage differential of some 1/3 - 2/3rd in the new countries, which boosts their economy by economic transfers or organic growth.

The second speaker, Kristian Hedberg (FIN), from the Cabinet of Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn, put the first and subsequent enlargement "waves" into perspective. The Dutch presidency managed to launch the process for Rumania and Bulgaria (2007 or at the latest 2008), as well as for Croatia, while the historic launch of the negotiations with Turkey was signed on October 3rd, 2004. Clearly, the European Commission, said K. Hedberg "is not paralyzed, as doomsday scenarios were ready to say, but the real capacity test has not yet been passed. It will happen this year 2005, when the EC will have to decide over the financing of the second phase 2007 - 2013 and to conclude its revision of the Lisbon scenario". For K. Hedberg too, the massive influx of cheap labour has not materialized. What the EC has to achieve now is a level playing field for all 25 member

Kornel Apatini, President of the Hungarian Lift Association introduces the situation in his country





A studious audience

states, with the application of the same social and environmental legislation, to mention but these two.

Then Petr Dolejsi (CZ) from the Czech permanent representation to the European Commission, presented the Czech economy and the impact of the integration over the last year and for the future, insisting on the flexibility and the high level of training & education of the Czech workforce, with major delocalizations (including in

the lift & escalator sector) to testify of the economic reality.

The next two speakers were followed with a particular interest by all present, since they were presenting the state of the building sector and more specifically of the lift & escalator business in Hungary and Poland. Kornel Apatini (HU), President of the Hungarian Lift Association and MD of Otis Hungary, presented the situation, with the relatively sorry state of the existing lifts

stock in his country and the need to get help from the European Union to bring existing lifts to a decent level of safety in the coming years. The same observation was made by Marek Oppeln-Bronikowski (PL), who is the MD of KONE Lifts in Poland. With nearly half of the new inhabitants of the EU, Poland is a potential economic giant of the size of Spain. Its GDP level is still much behind that of the Czech republic and Hungary, but Poland is catching up fast. The speaker insisted on the high number of accidents (2.38 per 10,000 units/year) and particularly of fatal accidents in the country, due to low safety level for lifts installed in the communist era. Public housing cooperatives can hardly find the money for maintenance and a fortiori upgrading of these lifts. It is therefore very important to apply European safety standards to their maximum efficiency, in order to improve the safety situation in Poland, for both users and technicians.

An interesting conference attended by many in the lift & escalator industry, from both "old" and "new" Europe.

## AN EVENING AT THE COMIC STRIPS MUSEUM

To conclude the Brussels event, ELA organised an evening dinner at the Museum of the Comic Strip, an undisputed Belgian speciality, with Tintin and Snowy to lead the way. The museum is located in a famous 'Art Nouveau' building of Brussels. The ELA guests toured the witty museum in language groups, before dinner itself. A great finish for a successful event!





ELA dinner at the Museum of the Comic Strips



## SNEL LAUNCH IN WARSAW-POLAND

Says Tadeusz Popielas, Secretary General of the Polish Association of Lift Makers: "we have applied the national filtering method for Poland and the accidents statistics were used to identify the worst risks for Poland. Now is the time to start implementing SNEL. Of course, owners cooperatives

are wondering where they will get the money to do the renovation. The debate at our conference was very constructive. We are working on solutions that will make our existing lifts safe over time".

Poland is by far the largest of the new European countries, that joined the EU on May 1st, 2004. With some 80,000 lifts installed and an economy growing at 4.1% in 2005, the country has taken the right course to rapid development. Of course, the difference between the new lifts installed in the buildings of bustling downtown Warsaw and the residential lifts of the residential blocks dating back for communist days, is impressive... The number of accidents in existing buildings is relatively high in Poland and all admit that something must be done to modernize the stock of existing lifts. The Polish lift association decided to co-organize a remarkable conference with all partners involved on April 27th at one of the Warsaw university faculties. The well attended conference (some 200 participants) had brought together all concerned: the lift industry of course, but also the certification bodies, the standardization institute, academics, the concerned ministries and - what is very important - many people responsible for the newly created cooperatives of owners, who are in charge of upgrading the old residential buildings and their lifts.



At right: Luc Rivet, Secretary General ELA and Tadeusz Popielas, Polish Association, before their presentations at the Warsaw Conference on SNEL

# Progress EN 81-58

The new harmonized norm EN 81-58 for fire resistance method of lift landing-doors is finally on the right track in every European country. France - among others - was hesitant to adopt it, despite the fact that it was harmonized at Europe's level; its fire specialists questioning the test method and EN 81-58 efficiency, when compared to the classical building material landing doors norm EN 1634, developed for the classical building doors. Why such reactions? To understand the issue, we need to explain a few things.

In fact, the development of the norm EN 81-58 was started in the early nineties, upon request from the lift industry, which was unsatisfied about the lack of efficiency of the traditional existing methods and the EN 81-58 is based on tests carried out in the Belgian laboratory of the University of Ghent (Laboratorium voor Aanwending der Brandstoffen & Warmteoverdracht), managed by Prof. Paul Vandeveldel.

The general idea with EN 81-58 is to have a Harmonized Standard proposing a methodology, which is at the same time efficient, reliable and easily repeatable. This greatly facilitates the application of the "New Approach" rules, which general idea is that - once published - a harmonized standard, for the resistance of lift landing doors to fire, enables all doors producers to have a single test carried out, once and for all at a European lab. The producer of doors can then sell them throughout Europe without having to do the same costly test again and again in different countries. Of course, the national legislation can differ on the time that the door must resist, from 30 to 120 minutes, depending on the requirements of the national fire authorities, but basically the test is the same.

The Ghent laboratory innovated by developing a scientific method measuring the leakage rate of gas and quantity of gas passing through the door openings. The method used before consisted of including the checking of the moment of ignition of a cotton pad put in front of the door. The problem was that the ignition was as much caused by the radiation of the non-insulated door as by convection through the openings. What needs to be measured is how fast the lift shaft may be heated and a fire propagated

from one floor to the next.

Says Prof. Vandeveldel: "the new method is comparable to oxygen depletion techniques used commonly today. The level of technology implied is more sophisticated than to hold a cotton pad, and it is more reliable. Laboratories around Europe should be able to apply it without difficulty."

The Ghent laboratory has successfully tested doors following EN 81-58 for two producers already. So has for example the "sister" laboratory of Warrington in the United Kingdom, which has become a close partner of Ghent by taking a majority stake (55%) in the Flemish laboratory, a recent commercial "spin-off" of the Ghent University.

The lift industry has created a Task Force to make the transition to the new norm easier. Ari Ketonen is its convener, and their work is clearing the sky; the result being the application and validity across Europe of this main norm in the EN 81 family. Labs in Great-Britain, Belgium, Germany, Finland and more recently France (Maizières-lès-Metz) are already applying it. A hurdle is being set aside and a new norm is becoming reality.

**In case of fire, lift landing doors must stop the propagation of fire from one floor to the others via the lift shaft.**



## LIST OF EUROPEAN LABORATORIES THAT ALREADY APPLY EN 81-58

### Germany

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# FOCUS ON

In every issue, we focus on one of the ELA Committees, showing its importance for the lift industry in Europe.



Reto Schiltknecht,  
Chairman of the Legal Committee

## THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

### The ultimate counsels

Since day one of ELA's existence, the Legal Committee's role has been that of "ultimate counsel" for the activities carried out and decisions taken by the association. Are they in line with the legal guidelines written by the Legal Committee and published by ELA? The ELA Legal guidelines provide for rules to be followed when participating to professional associations, particularly in the light of the EC antitrust guidelines. In January 2004, ELA was subject to an enquiry by the Competition services of the European Commission and our legal counsels were very active in the ensuing period, that was concluded in June 2004, when the European Commission officially announced that ELA was cleared of any wrongdoing.

Since then, the Chairman of the Legal Committee, Reto Schiltknecht, has asked the Board the authorization to enlarge the Legal committee to non-lawyers, with a good experience of our sector, to be able to extend the service offered to the association and be able to give legal advice on other issues than the strict antitrust questions. This

is a given of course, but many other legal issues are linked to the production and approval of European norms, of their application throughout Europe, of various issues and questions dealt with by the different committees active within ELA. Says the Committee chairman, Reto Schiltknecht: "we should not only be reactive. The Legal Committee should of course supervise the compliance of the work done within ELA, but will not only be a support committee working on demand, driven by the topics that are put forward by the organization. It should also be proactive and define its own agenda". The work carried out in the first meetings of the "new" committee, deals for example with the following questions:

- Does the potential joining by an association such as ELCA create any legal or other issue?
- What concerns the introduction process of non-harmonized norms, is there a need for the institutionalization process of the consultation of the member associations and a possible assistance?

- What will the new mission statement be and how can other committees be assisted?

The Legal Committee will deal with many different topics. The first results are expected during the second part of 2005.

#### THE LEGAL COMMITTEE

**Chairman:**

Reto Schiltknecht - Switzerland

**Members:**

Véronique Spreadbury - France  
Alessandra Toncelli - Italy  
Peter Günther - Germany  
Anti Ruutu - Finland



Members of the Legal Committee at work, from left to right: Reto Schiltknecht, Véronique Spreadbury, Alessandra Toncelli and Anti Ruutu. Peter Günther (VDMA) participated by telephone from Hamburg.

## After Warsaw, Budapest and Heilbronn

After Poland at the end of April, it is Budapest - Hungary and Heilbronn - Germany in June: two main seminars fully dedicated to the application of the new norm EN 81-80 to existing lifts, especially in the new 10 member countries that joined the EU last year. The Hungarian lift association organises its two-day event next to lake Balaton on June 9 and 10, while the Heilbronn Technical Academy organises its first European lift congress at the end of the month, on June 28th and 29th. Two main events in the world of lifts and escalators, that support the introduction of better safety for existing lifts in Europe.



## ELA Award goes to Austria

For 2004, the ELA annual Award goes to the Austrian association FMS, for the progress registered in Austria, in implementing SNEL and the assiduity of its participants to ELA committees. The national filtering method of EN 81-80 has been applied and a revised legislation is in preparation with all partners involved. For the Austrian lift association, Mrs Barbara Schicker, Secretary General of the association and Thomas Haidinger from the Statistics Committee received the prize for Austria, with a smile!



Barbara Schicker and Thomas Haidinger, for the Austrian lift association FMS, receive the ELA award from the hands of the President, Richard Maiocchi (centre).

**TC10 list of Work Groups:** the updated and corrected list of the TC 10 Work Groups, published in the last issue of your ELA NEWS, is available on the ELA website: see PDF in the ELA News section.



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