



INTRODUCTORY SPEECH NAPLES CONFERENCE - MICHEL CHARTRON

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

Spring in the bay of Naples is of course a wonderful experience, and we thank Mr Vincenzo de Martino and our colleagues of the Italian association, for having had this idea of hosting the ELA annual General Assembly and conference in Naples.

Several months ago, when the ELA Board was considering the potential subjects of this conference, we decided to embrace the three most important facets supporting our activity at the beginning of the XXIst century, worldwide, and especially in Europe:

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Energy efficiency

That is the reason why we will listen today to three speakers who each will shed light on one of these aspects of our industry development. Everyday business often makes it that we forget about the “big picture” and the yearly ELA conference is certainly a time to reflect upon these major trends supporting the activities of the lift & escalator industry.

Ladies and gentlemen, the world is changing...

If you consider the number of skyscrapers being built in the world (by skyscraper, I mean buildings which are taller than 200 m), you soon realize that Asia is really coming of age...

In 2010, 3 skyscrapers were started in the USA, and 7,000 in China alone ! China, and Asia in general have overtaken Europe in the number of new lifts installed each year. China alone installs more lifts every year that the whole of Europe. One sector where we are still dominant for some time: Europe still has the largest number of existing lifts...

The European lift & escalator industry is still very much respected and our leadership in the field of normalization remains unquestioned for the moment. We are taking advantage of it to promote a world standard for lifts that will be based on the new standard for new lifts, EN 81-20/50, which is presently being finalized by CEN. The very fact that we have such an important stock of existing lifts – nearly 5 million lifts – means that for us, **MODERNIZATION** for safety, energy efficiency and accessibility reasons are essential.

Our 3 speakers today will each cover one of these aspects:

What concerns the most important, **SAFETY**, the French Minister of State Gilles de Robien, who created the legislation based on SNEL (EN81-80) had announced that he would come to Naples, but at the last minute, President Sarkozy of France has given him an important mission abroad. So it is our colleagues Jean-Luc Detavernier, General Delegate of the French lift Federation and Philippe Lamalle, Head of the French Technical Committee who will give us the state of the application of the French law and answer your questions.

Our second speaker will deal with **ACCESSIBILITY**. In an ageing Europe, the potential represented by accessible tourism for a relatively rich population of retired Europeans and their specific demands means big business in Tourism. Let us only think of the beautiful Italian coast and cities. Our guest, Ivor AMBROSE is the head of ENAT, the European Network for Accessible Tourism. He will explain what can be expected in terms of accessibility needs and business developments in the coming decades.

Finally our third speaker will deal with **ENERGY EFFICIENCY**. Last year, at our Conference in Berlin, we covered the issue of energy efficiency and the promises it contains. Now we all realize that the hot potato is above all in the hands of the components manufacturers. It is a real challenge for them to deliver the controllers, doors, and other systems that will integrate different sleep modes, in order to drastically reduce the standby consumption. Our third speaker today will be Roberto Beccalli, President of UCIREV, the automation specialists. He will explain about the energy efficiency challenge facing the components manufacturers.

There will be plenty of time for your questions later. Luc Rivet will moderate the debates and the question time, and before we give the floor to our speakers, I will briefly give the word to our host here in Naples, Mr. Guidalberto Guidi, President of ANIE...