Foreword: a new visual identity for ELA

Together with the move to its new premises in January of this year, the ELA Communication Task Force, chaired by David Molins, proposed to renew the ELA logo and website for a better visibility and to mark the start of a new era for the industry’s representative association. The new logo is designed to illustrate and emphasize the role of lifts and escalators in both vertical and horizontal transportations in buildings and cities.

New President and Vice President for ELA

Jorge Ligüerre
new ELA President

At the General Assembly of the European Lift Association held in Paris on April 29, 2015, Jorge Ligüerre was unanimously elected as President of ELA from 2015 to 2018, succeeding Philippe Lamalle.

Born in 1956 in Zaragoza (Spain), Jorge Ligüerre graduated in 1978 as Industrial Engineer from the Polytechnic University of Barcelona. A native Spanish speaker, he is also fluent in English, Portuguese, German and French.

Since 1981, he has held several leading positions with Schindler in Spain, Portugal, Austria, Switzerland and the Benelux.

From 2011 to 2013, he was European Vice-President and Business Manager of Existing Installations for Europe South. Since 2013, he is Senior Vice-President of Corporate Technical Learning at the headquarters of Schindler Management AG in Switzerland, catering for 30,000 field technicians.

Accepting the nomination, Jorge Ligüerre’s first words as new ELA President were for his predecessor, Philippe Lamalle, whom he thanked warmly for the energy and time he devoted to the promotion of the common interests of the European lift sector through ELA.
Commenting on his new responsibility, Jorge Ligüerre said: “I have been actively present within ELA and EEA – the European Elevator Association - for the past 15 years, acting first as ELA Communication Committee Chairman and since the end of 2007 as EEA President.

In this sense, I want to reinforce my commitment towards the industry and dedicate part of my professional time to ensure that ELA continues developing effective activities to the benefit of all our members, with the aim to continue to improve Safety, Quality and Sustainability of our equipment and services for all our customers, workers and users, contributing to the well-being of our society and our industry”.

**Roberto Zappa elected Vice President**

At the General Assembly of the European Lift Association held in Paris on April 29, 2015, Roberto Zappa was unanimously elected as Vice President of ELA succeeding Björn Kollmorgen.

Roberto Zappa is chairman of the executive Board of the Sematic Group, a leading supplier of components and complete elevator systems for the industry, based in Osio Sotto (Bergamo). Sematic operates in more than 40 countries with approx. 1100 employees.

Roberto Zappa holds a master degree in engineering from the Politecnico of Milan, covered for many years the R&D position at Sematic and has been a member of numerous national and international committees (UNI, CEN, ISO), institutions and associations active for the improvement and development of safety standards and product quality in the lift industry.

Since last year Roberto Zappa is also President of AssoAscensori (the main Italian lift association) and President of the Metalworking Industry Group at Confindustria Bergamo (the General Confederation of Italian manufacturing and service companies).

**ELA 2015 Award for best performing member association goes to FEEDA (Spain)**

The 2015 ELA Award for the best performing member association was attributed to the Spanish association FEEDA – Federación Empresarial Española de Ascensores - during the ELA General Assembly in Paris.

For the annual attribution of this Award, the ELA Communication Committee follows a well-defined procedure. After a detailed analysis of each association’s actions by the Committee, based on a set of objective criteria, the Board of Directors reviews the nominees and decides on the winner.

The first and foremost criterion is that the Association concerned sends participants to ELA Committees and Working Groups and that these contribute actively to the work.

Contributing reliable statistics is another of the important criteria. A new one has been added concerning the use of ELA deliverables, where many member associations score good points. Finally, successful initiatives at national and local level are also taken into consideration.

Among the decisive factors, it was noted that the Spanish association has set up a spectacular re-organization programme with new Statutes, a new Board of Directors and the creation of four new Permanent Commissions which have been quite active during the past year.

Also of particular interest was the development of good teamwork with national and regional authorities.

The ELA Award was received by the President of FEEDA, Javier del Pozo (photo) and the FEEDA Secretary General, Juan Luis Perez Mateo.
Lifts: crucial actors of societal evolution
Record attendance at ELA 2015 Conference in Paris

The 2015 ELA General Assembly and Conference took place this year in Paris at the invitation of the French Lift Association – Fédération des Ascenseurs - with a record attendance of 230 lift professionals and guests. The conference was placed under the theme “Lifts in the European Energy Scene”.

Opening the 2015 ELA Conference, Philippe Lamalle, President of ELA, stated that lifts and escalators will increasingly become crucial actors of societal evolution in view of the developments which shape the world we live in like the demographic evolution, the growing urbanization or the ageing of the population in the Western world.

The key speaker of the morning session was Marcos Gonzalez-Alvarez, representing the EU Commission DG Energy. He set the European Energy stage, and highlighted the energy efficiency objectives 2020/2030, the different ways of attaining the European objectives, and, of course, the role of the lift sector.

The view of the energy experts was presented by Prof. Anibal T. de Almeida, of the Coimbra University, who gave an update of the Energy Efficient Elevators and Escalators (E4) Study, and informed the audience of what has happened since 2010, when the E4 Study was first published.

Responding for the lift industry, Angelo Bosoni, Chairman of the Quality, Safety, Environment and Education Committee of ELA said that the lift sector had a clear message: we agree with the building industry that the focus should be on the building level and that lifts – as part of a building – therefore should be incorporated and regulated under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive – EPBD.

The afternoon workshops focused on the national implementation of the EPBD Directive, with case histories on France and Portugal, and on the many open questions remaining as regards the new Lifts Directive 2014/33/EU. Here also the EU Commission was represented by Birgit Weidel, DG Grow who presented the Commission’s view. Her panel partners were Esfandiar Gharibaan, Chairman of the ELA Lifts Directive working group, Véronique Spreadbury, Chairwoman of the ELA Legal Committee and Christian de Mas Latrie, Chairman of the ELA Codes & Standards Committee.

The views of the Construction industry were presented by Vincent Detemmerman, representing Ulrich Paetzold, CEO of FIEC, the European Construction Industry Federation.

The full text and slides of all ELA Conference speeches as well as photos are available on the ELA website: www.ela-aisbl.org
In an effort to increase workers’ and (sub) contractors’ safety, the ELA Working Group Education and Training has issued a booklet on “Basic Safety Practices for Lifts” gathering general and specific safety practices enabling professionals to work safely on lifts.

Designed in the first place for lift installers and providers of maintenance, repair and modernization services, the safety booklet also aims at lift company employees. Since the employee is responsible for following the safety practices and for using the protection equipment provided by his/her company, the booklet will provide guidance and help for understanding the risks and, if necessary, require additional protection means to minimize these risks.

The booklet describes risks and quotes examples of protection means which can help to attain the best safety level. Using explicit visuals, each risk or danger situation is identified and described under a red traffic light. Vital safety rules for eliminating the risk are also illustrated and come under a green traffic light.

Basic Safety Practices for Lifts
ELA Booklet published

As Convenor of the working group, I am particularly pleased that the ELA Safety booklet has received a warm welcome from the ELA General Assembly in Paris where it was officially presented. This is a strong indication that the booklet fills a basic need in all segments of the lift industry. Equally, as ELA made drawings and templates available to member associations for translation purposes, I am happy to see that the booklet is now being translated in different European languages, thus ensuring a thorough penetration in ELA member countries.

Finally, I wish to extend my thanks to the members of the working group who have shown great commitment and motivation during the editing process. It is the working group’s aim to continue its work and strive for the continuous improvement of safety levels in our industry.

Comments by the Education and Training Working Group Convenor Carine Le Callonnec

ELA Working Groups PCR and Energy & Ecology merge

The PCR for Lifts Working Group and the Working Group Energy & Ecology have been merged into a single ELA Working Group under the chairmanship of Urs Thumm.

The ELA Board considered that the work of ELA on the Product Category Rules for Lifts was finished when the PCR was delivered – after several successful Workshops in Berlin where all stakeholders participated – for open consultation to the Programme Operator (Environdec) end of April 2015.

The newly merged WG will continue to work on ecology and energy-related issues affecting the lift industry, such as ISO 25745, the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, the EcoDesign Directive and the follow-up activities of the implementation of the PCR for Lifts.

Contact:
Jean-Pierre Jacobs

Note: The ELA Education and Training Working Group is reporting to the ELA Quality, Safety, Environment and Education Committee.

Note: The Energy & Ecology Working Group is reporting to the ELA Quality, Safety, Environment and Education Committee.
The text of the Lifts Directive, 2014/33/EU (95/16/EC recast) has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) on 29th March 2014 (L96/251). There are several important changes that may have an impact or influence on the Lifts Industry. The ELA Lifts Directive Working Group, chaired by Esfandiar Gharibaan, has finalized its assessment of these impacts.

The document will be made available to ELA member associations after having been screened by the ELA Legal Committee and Board in September 2015.

Contact:
Jean-Pierre Jacobs

Note: The ELA Lifts Directive Working Group is reporting to the ELA Codes & Standards Committee.

Modernization of CE-marked lifts: Information Note available

It is now some years since the introduction of the Lifts Directive 95/16/EC (LD) in Europe to which all lifts handed over from 1st July 1999 must conform. This means there are many existing lifts placed into service under this Directive. So it would be expected that lift owners would want to replace some parts of the lift for a variety of reasons e.g. to improve safety, reduce energy consumption, improve accessibility, improve aesthetics, improve the reliability and operation of the lift.

In order to inform Lift Associations and governments in European countries and to help developing harmonized national rules or regulations regarding modernization of CE-marked lifts, a detailed information note has been written by an ELA Working Group, under the chairmanship of Bernard Hautesseries.

Although modernization is a national responsibility, this Information Note may support harmonization of national rules. Once placed into service, lifts fall under national regulations including modernization of lifts; possible approaches taken towards modernization of CE-marked lifts in different countries are identified.

Contact:
Jean-Pierre Jacobs

Note: The ELA Modernization of CE-marked Lifts Working Group is reporting to the ELA Codes & Standards Committee.

Cooperation
ELA-ELCA-EFESME: the three associations meet in September 2015

After the ELA Board had recommended a tightening of the links between the three lift-representative associations, ELCA (components), EFESME (SME’s) and ELA are to re-discuss renewed cooperation between them during a meeting which is tentatively planned for mid-September 2015.

ELA will be represented by its President, Vice-President, Secretary General and several members of the Board.

New President for the European Elevator Association – EEA

At its meeting on 24 June 2015, the Management Committee of the European Elevator Association – EEA – has elected Jorge Estévez as the new President of EEA, succeeding Jorge Ligüerre.

Jorge Estévez has been working in different positions with ThyssenKrupp for the last twenty years. At present, he is CEO of ThyssenKrupp Elevator Spain, Portugal and Morocco.
New Faces on the ELA Board

A main change has taken place at the management level of your European Lift Association. In order to better represent the participating associations from all over Europe, the ELA Board has been enlarged from 15 to 17 members.

The new faces on the Board are:

- **Pierre Hardouin**  
  (Fédération des Ascenseurs, France, 2015)
- **René Hermann**  
  (VSA, Switzerland, 2015)
- **Ari Ketonen**  
  (SHUY, Finland, 2015)
- **Thierry Jomard**  
  (EEA, 2015)
- **Jorge Estévez**  
  (EEA, 2015)

SNEE Working Group re-activated within ELA

In the spring 2015, the ELA Working Group on SNEE – the Safety Norm for Existing Escalators – was re-activated within ELA under the chairmanship of Rafael Herrero Manrique. Purpose of the WG is to propose solutions to improve existing escalators on safety, energy efficiency and accessibility aspects. The group will assess the present situation, including accident statistics and shall work from a user and technical perspective.

The expected deliverable from the WG is a report - to be produced towards the autumn 2015 - providing an analysis and an action plan to encourage the modernization of existing escalators at national level.

Contact: Jean-Pierre Jacobs

Note: The ELA SNEE Working Group is reporting to the ELA Codes & Standards Committee.
ELA was represented at the 6th European Lift Congress Heilbronn taking place in Stuttgart in October 2014 by the President, Philippe Lamalle, and by the Secretary General, Jean-Pierre Jacobs.

The ELA President delivered the opening speech of the Congress on the theme “Lifts for the Future of Europe”. He gave an overview of the evolution of lifts/escalators/vertical transportation in the framework of today’s world-wide perspectives. Amongst these, he highlighted the demographic evolution in emerging countries, the growing urbanization, the ageing of the population and, consequently, the growing needs in accessibility for elderly and handicapped people and, last but not least, the growing demand of the world in sustainable development and green products.

The ELA president also briefly explained the work of ELA in the major focus areas of the ELA Roadmap. He described the efforts made by the association to produce reliable industrial and accidents statistics and commented in particular on the association’s work in the areas of safety, standards and energy efficiency. Finally, he stressed the importance of the role of engineers in introducing innovation in our way of living. In this respect, he confirmed that ELA will continue to support the European Lift Congress in the future.

The trip to Poland included meetings in Warsaw with the President of the Technical Inspection Office of Poland, Mr. Mieczysław Borowski and with members of the PALM Board.

During the fair, PALM also celebrated its tenth anniversary and was offered congratulations and best wishes of continued success by Philippe Lamalle in the name of the European Lift and Escalator industry.

The ELA President and Secretary General participated in the 3rd Euro-Lift Fair and Exhibition organized by the Polish ELA member association PALM. In his opening speech, Philippe Lamalle said that ELA supports this growing fair, first as a gateway to the East of Europe, and also because it reflects the dynamism of Poland, a country where growth in the lift industry is still present, unlike in most West-European countries.

The Schelimer Symposium 2015, organized by a.o. VFA-Interlift e.V., took place in June 2015 under the title “Recent Technical Developments in the Lift Sector”. ELA’s Secretary General, Jean-Pierre Jacobs presented the 150 participants, mostly from small and medium-sized German lift companies and component manufacturers, with the recent developments at ELA and took advantage of the event for some useful networking.

Asansör 2015 - Istanbul - March 2015
ELA President Philippe Lamalle at the official opening ceremony of Asansör 2015 with officials from AYSAD and Turkish authorities
Events

PETAK User Safety Conference
Athens
June 2015

At the request of the Greek member association PETAK, past President Philippe Lamalle participated on behalf of ELA in a conference on the safety of existing lifts in Athens, together with the author of the successful French safety law (SAE), Minister Gilles de Robien. With 20 known fatalities in the last 3 years, Petak urgently wished to draw the attention of Greek opinion leaders and the authorities on the seriousness of the situation as regards the safety of existing lifts in the country.

Gilles de Robien highlighted the very positive results of the French safety laws passed while he participated in Government, while Philippe Lamalle gave a detailed description of the implementation of SNEL – the Safety Norm for Existing Lifts – in most European countries, based on the ELA SNEL implementation map.

The ELA contribution was well received and the good press coverage of the event has provided consistent safety arguments and figures for the Greek Ministry of Industry to consider.

Interlift 2015
Augsburg
October 2015

As in previous editions, ELA will again actively participate in Interlift 2015. The ELA President, Jorge Ligüerre, will deliver a statement during the opening ceremony before officially opening the ELA stand. ELA will also participate in the VFA Interlift Forum, where the Secretary General is scheduled to speak on recent developments at ELA with a focus on worker and user safety.