ELA Conference « Lifts in the European Energy Scene »

Morning session

Concluding remarks by Angelo Bosoni, Chairman of ELA QSEE Committee

As Chairman of the ELA Committee on Quality, Safety, Environment and Education, I have the pleasure and the honour to offer some conclusions for the morning part of this Conference.

My first impression is that we have learned a lot from our speakers today. We have been given an insight in the way the European Commission shapes its Energy policy and how they foresee to reach the ambitious European goals on lessening Europe’s energy dependency and fostering energy efficiency at every level of society. Therefore, my special thanks go to Mr. Gonzalez Alvarez who represented the EU Commission today.

Secondly – and equally important – I have very much enjoyed the interaction between legislator, academia and our customer base - the building industry. With their contributions, they have highlighted – each from a different angle – how to reach the common goal of energy efficiency.

The EU Commission wants to go to a secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy for every European. This implies creating a fully integrated internal energy market, rethinking energy efficiency as an energy source in its own right. The Commission also put a strong emphasis on self-regulation – or voluntary agreements.
From Prof. de Almeida we have heard that the regulation of energy efficiency of Lifts creates a huge opportunity to save energy and create jobs. Three options have been named there: The EPBD, the Ecodesign Directive or Energy Labelling Directive and the Product Category Rules – PCR. However, the preparatory study to establish the Ecodesign Working Plan 2015-2017 states the following as regards the measures that could be envisaged for lifts and escalators, and I quote: “an in-depth study, which could be either a preparatory study explicitly, or a general update of the E4 study with a clear focus on policy action, should clarify which of Ecodesign or EPBR regulation is the most appropriate for lifts”.

In his conclusion, Ulrich Paetzold of FIEC is very clear: duplication of measures is unhelpful and Ecodesign and Energy labelling of construction products is counter-productive.

As for the lift sector, our message and strategy is equally clear: we agree with the building industry that the focus should be on the building level and that lifts – as parts of a building - should therefore be incorporated and regulated under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive – EPBD. This is a message that has been consistently passed by ELA to the European legislator since several years.

ELA is at present updating the EPBD implementation map in Europe, using positive developments in several countries towards the inclusion of lifts in national EPBD regulations in order to encourage all member states to act in this direction. This afternoon, our first Workshop will go into some details on this.

However, keeping our options open, we also keep studying the opportunities or threats of going towards self-regulation for lifts in the framework of the Ecodesign working plan 3 – as yet unpublished.

I also wish to point out that the PCR for Lifts – which is now in its conclusion phase – strongly focuses on the energy performance of lifts in the framework of lifts Life Cycle Analysis and Environmental Product Declaration.
Finally, I mention two more lines of action for ELA. The first one relates to the ISO standard 25745 – Energy performance of lifts, escalators and moving walks. Part 1, published in 2012 focuses on energy measurement and verification. Part 2 and 3, under publication in 2015 relate to energy calculation and classification for lifts and escalators and moving walks. ELA strongly believes that a part 4 – Components – will usefully complement the first parts and thus provide a complete and adequate energy policy tool for the lift sector as a whole.

The second line of action for ELA lies in its unabated support for the Renovate Europe campaign. This campaign endeavours to convince policy makers in Europe that deep renovation of existing buildings is not only the best way forward to extensive energy savings but could also kick-start the European economy and create a huge amount of jobs. Together with FIEC – who is also a very active partner of Renovate Europe – we are convinced that deep renovation of existing buildings is the best solution.

Thanking you for your attention, I now open the floor for questions and hope that we can have a lively debate for the rest of this morning session.