



ELA

NEWS

QUARTERLY OF THE EUROPEAN LIFT ASSOCIATION

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# Milestones & Targets

EDITORIAL

by Michel Chartron, President of ELA

For a decade now, the European Lift association (ELA) has been the most important vector in the promotion of the lift & escalator industry, the definition of its agenda and implementation of policy decisions. Since March 2008, I have had the pleasure of presiding over the association. Before transferring the responsibility to my successor in 2012, I would like to thank all the members for their cooperation and for the energy deployed in reaching our goals. I would like to take this opportunity to stress a few priorities for the future of our activities in installation of new lifts, maintenance & repair as well as modernization of the some 5 million lifts installed in Europe..

Our long term basic priorities remain the **safety** of both users and workers, the **accessibility** to the built environment for the disabled and the ever larger number of senior citizens among us, a better **energy efficiency** for our products, **global harmonization** of codes in order to ultimately certify once and apply everywhere, and finally increase and promote the **attractiveness** of our industry.

If I look at the safety issue, the targets are well defined. The best tool to improve the safety on the huge stock of lifts which is 20 years old and more, is to apply the SNEL norm EN 81-80. Its application by national governments is progressing throughout Europe, despite some setback here and there. Building owners don't always understand that their responsibility could be engaged in case of accident and that next to the increased safety of their modernized lift, their building has also increased in value.

Where SNEL has been applied systematically, such as in France, the number of fatal and serious accidents has been dramatically reduced. Ultimately, the application of EN 81-80 will harmonize legislation in Europe for existing lifts, and it is a good thing.

As for energy efficiency, the studies done, above all the E4 study, co-financed by the European Commission has indicated how much energy could be reduced, especially in standby. A visit to Interlift in Augsburg in October this year indicated clearly that most component producers have understood the message and propose ingenious components whose consumption is much reduced. The trend is set and a new generation of lifts will represent a smaller part of the energy consumed by buildings in the future,



Michel Chartron,  
President of ELA





which means tomorrow.

Our industry is also a major actor in the improvement of the Accessibility of sites and buildings. The city of the future will welcome the large majority of citizens. The built environment must be improved;

a lot needs to be done – even in the public sector where there is no excuse to have inaccessible buildings, to make sure that people with disabilities, permanent or temporary, can reach all floors of all buildings “naturally” without it being a hurdle race! Architects must be made aware of it. It is a never-ending task and we have a special role to play since we are the specialists of vertical and horizontal easy access, and since the population of Europe is greying fast!

Global harmonisation is self explanatory in a globalized economy, it is simply a must to develop the exports of lifts and components to the fast growing countries outside Europe. We need to continue the cooperation with all the Lift code development organizations .

Finally, I would not have enjoyed some thirty years of my professional life in this business sector if I had not considered the Lift Industry as one of the most attractive industries .

The Lift Industry is good for the public: lifts and escalators are the safest mean of transportation and we have solutions

to make it even safer. The Industry has also developed solutions to save energy and to position itself as a key contributor of sustainable urban development. The Industry provides solutions to better access sites and buildings. The Industry combines global presence and local service excellence.

But the Lift Industry is also attractive for its employees , offering them opportunities of competence and career development through efficient training and planned job mobility. We need to constantly develop these features in order to continue to attract and retain the best young professionals

By improving the satisfaction of the public and the motivation of its employees, the Lift Industry will continue to be attractive to the next generations.

I wish a great success to my successor and thank you all for your unfailing support in our search for excellence.

*Michel Chartron, President of ELA*

## Accident statistics: a renewed effort

*by Ebru Gemici, Chairwoman Statistics Committee*



For more than a decade now, ELA collects basic economic statistics for Europe. Over the last four years, a new system has been put in place, which guarantees full confidentiality of figures and the respect of European competition rules.

The system is based on a “black box” where companies insert their data, the system providing only a consolidated result under strict conditions, as set up by the Legal Committee of ELA.

This works better every year, but we still had a problem area: the accident statistics.

Accident statistics have been collected for a long time, but the results were not satisfactory: too few participants, too much discrepancies and “strange” results when one compared different countries, the difficulty to classify accidents following the SNEL risk list, etc...

The Statistical Committee also realized that many companies were reluctant to communicate their accidents/incidents figures. ELA therefore asked the association lawyer to produce a short document, indicating that there is no problem in communicating accident statistics “in the clear” (without going through the Progetti “black box”).

Of course, they remain anonymous and are not be linked to individual companies. It is vital for the lift & escalator industry to know about its accidents, especially the fatal and severe accidents for users as well as for mechanics in each country, to be able over time to identify the worst risks and try to eradicate the accidents, cause by cause.

The Statistical Committee realized that most European countries have their own system of collection, based on the type



of injury/part of the body hurt, or on the area where it happened or following the SNEL risks, etc... Obviously, it would be great if all adopted the same matrix for collection of data that would therefore make comparisons and improvements easy. But Europe is still in the making and ELA cannot impose the same accident statistics collection table to all.

We have therefore chosen to ask each association to fill in a simplified form, with the main SNEL risks and to indicate the severity of the accident. It is the best that can be done for the moment.

ELA is sorry to ask associations' staff to fill in a different table than their own, but it is worth dedicating some time to it.

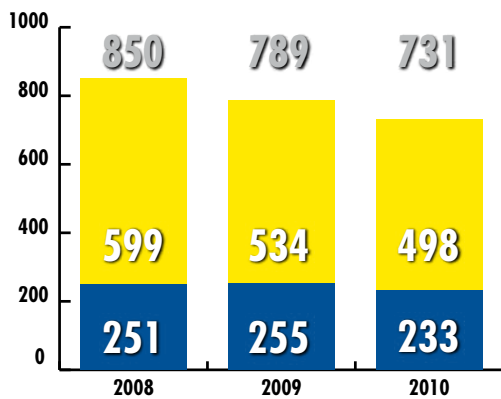
ELA also asks each association to compile

the number of fatal accidents in their country (even outside the membership of the association) with a short description of the accident. We don't ask the association to give us the legal responsibilities, but what happens, to the best of the knowledge of the person answering, with date, sex and age of person if possible.

Fatal accidents are striking and can greatly help other associations in neighbouring countries, when discussing the priorities with their own government.

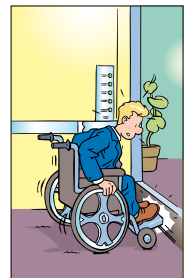
We thank all associations for their great help in improving ELA's accident statistics.

## LIFT ACCIDENTS 2008-2010

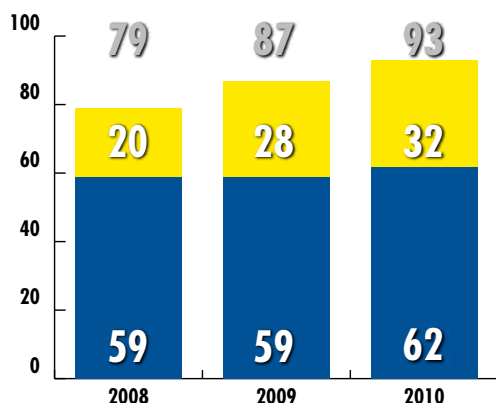


**TOTAL: 2.370 LIFT ACCIDENTS IN 2008-2010**

 **worker accidents**  
 **user accidents**



## ESCALATOR ACCIDENTS 2008-2010



**TOTAL: 259 ESCALATOR ACCIDENTS IN 2008-2010**

 **worker accidents**  
 **user accidents**





# INTERLIFT 2011: lift components in a



The whole Wittur stand, a "local" company in Bavaria, was centred on energy efficiency



INTERLIFT 2011 was a special edition, since it was the 20th time the fair was organized in Augsburg, Germany. It hasn't taken long for the fair, organized by VFA, to reach the enviable status of major fair in Europe and the Middle East, ahead of the Milan and Istanbul fairs. This year was an excellent vintage, claim the organizers, with more exhibitors than 2 years ago, and more visitors.

The number of visitors increased but less than in the past, probably an indication of the difficult times that the construction industry, and more specifically the lift & escalator industry are going through.

The organisation was impeccable as every time, with a very much attended forum, led by Werner Boehm in German and English and many interesting presentations. The fair itself had its usual number of innovations, brought mainly by components



Achim Hütter, drives interlift

# time of crisis



the organiser of the fair,  
like a Formula 1

manufacturers and manufacturers in the field of hydraulic lifts. Tele-alarms and electronics were very present, a sign of the changes in the telecom world all over the world.

As for the general trend, if one has to be perceived, it was the number of products, promoted for their reduced energy consumption, or their "green" credentials. From controllers to doors or motors, energy labels flourish. It stresses the importance for the industry to get as soon as possible the ISO/CEN norm 25745-1/2

which is in the final stages of its preparation.

Many non-German exhibitors, from Italy, France, Spain, the UK or Greece for example, but also a large representation from China, most of their companies being regrouped in a "China pavilion". An interesting "première" was brought by the Italian federation ANICA, which organized a large stand to promote products from small components manufacturers who had for the most part, never exposed at Interlift.

Another good point for EEA and ELA, was that this year, hall 2 contained not only the associations stands but also a large share of exhibiting companies. This created more traffic than usual and brought interesting contacts from European companies, but also from countries at the periphery of Europe.

An excellent vintage indeed, since all exhibitors that we met were satisfied with the results of their presence in Augsburg. Next appointment: October 2013!

## Interlift

Progress of components in energy efficiency

Energy efficiency is the new buzz word in the world of lift & escalator components, at least for those that have an impact on the energy consumption of the whole lift. The main "discovery" of the Swiss study that was followed by the E4 report produced by ELA with partners, was the importance of standby consumption and the need to slash it. The low hanging fruits are obvious: replace the incandescent light bulbs with LED or other lighting systems that only consume a fraction of the previous lighting systems, for example. But it gets trickier for other components such as doors or controllers. At Interlift, all component manufacturers whose products have an impact on the consumption of the lift promoted new versions of their products, insisting on the energy results, on the various standby modes developed and on the life cycle results for their products. In the absence of a proper norm, it is mainly the German guideline, VDI 4707 which is used, and the label going with it. This shows the resilience and dynamism of the lift components industry, in Germany and elsewhere.





## New Statutes for ELA: from 12 to 15 Board members



The European Lift Association is run by a Board of Management consisting of 12 members, designated by European associations, with statutes guaranteeing a good representation of large medium and small countries. The success of the association, with the new membership of the new European member states or Turkey, has enticed the Board to decide for an enlargement from 12 to 15 members. Large, medium and small countries will be better represented and will be able to make their voice heard.

## A new Eco-design directive for lifts?

Lifts & escalators are an integral part of buildings and their energy performance should above all be integrated by architects and building engineers in the total energy calculation of the building, next to the other services provided by the building. Now that the construction industry is aiming for passive buildings or even “energy positive” buildings, ever kWh counts, and even if lifts only represent a very small part of the energy consumed by buildings, the lift industry has decided to reduce its energy footprint, and improve, especially in its standby consumption, along the lines defined by the Energy Performance of Buildings directive (2002/91/EC). For ELA, the most important European text is the EPBD directive and we wish to be mentioned next to other building services in the next version, when the directive will be revised.

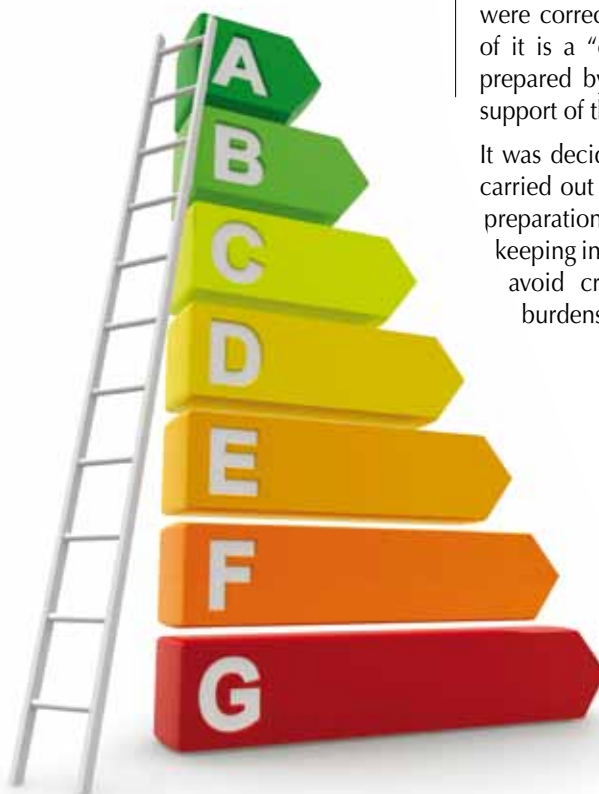
The industry was therefore somewhat surprised to discover recently that the European Commission and the Dutch consultants hired to prepare the new Eco-design directive, intended to integrate



lifts & escalators in this future directive, which was earlier called ErP (Energy-related Products directive). ELA attended the stakeholders meeting organised and discovered that other sectors had also been brought in unexpectedly.

The documents of the Eco-design directive were correct concerning lifts, since most of it is a “copy-paste” of the E4 report, prepared by ELA and partners, with the support of the European Commission.

It was decided to participate to the work carried out in the coming months on the preparation of the Eco-design directive, keeping in mind that any decision should avoid creating useless administrative burdens for companies in the field.





## IN BRIEF

### INTERLIFT: Orona largest lift manufacturer present



Traditionally, Interlift is above all the fair where component producers and lift service providers are present and promote their newest products. Many small and medium-size manufacturers are present, mostly in the field of hydraulic lifts, but the large general manufacturers are

more among the visitors than among the exhibitors. This year, one of the largest exhibitors was the Spanish Orona, that regrouped on its stand many of their new partners throughout Europe.



### Noise: an ELA Position Paper

Vibrations transmitted through the building structure can cause noises. Since the lift usually comes "late" in the building process, architects and building engineers have a tendency to forget about such structural building issues as sound and noise. ELA has therefore collected the viewpoints of experts in the field, from the industry, to produce a Position Paper that sheds light on the issue and gives the general viewpoint of the industry on the topic. The demand for comfort from building occupants will certainly bring the issue to the forefront in the coming years. Members can access this document on the "Members only" section of the website.

### CEN Accessibility conference



On September 28th, CEN organised an "open meeting" in Brussels on "European accessibility requirements in public procurement in the built environment". Normalization & accessibility in Europe were discussed with representatives from the consumers (ANEC), from the people with disabilities (EDF), from industry (FIEC and ELA) and from architects (ACE), next to the experts in the field and the European Commission, represented mainly by Ms I. Placencia-Porrero and Mr M Fuchs.

All agreed that the situation is improving but not at the pace which was initially expected. All presentations and comments are available on the CEN-CENELEC website, at: <http://www.cen.eu/cen/Sectors/Sectors/Accessibility/Construction/Pages/OpenMeeting.aspx>



## IN BRIEF



### Greek association revived

The Greek lift & escalator association **PETAK** had known problems in the last few years, and the present economic difficulties of the country were not the best of climate to promote safety, energy efficiency or accessibility in Greece. Still, under the influence of several new company managers, the Greek lift industry decided that it was the right time to revive the association and make itself heard in Athens and Brussels, in the present terrible economic climate.

Europe cannot afford to let economic activity die out in Greece, if the country is to pay back its debt. ELA will do all it can to help the Greek association survive the crisis and improve the Greek lift stock which is the largest in Europe per head of inhabitants.



### Bulgarian association in contact with ELA

The Bulgarian association (BLA) has contacted ELA for preliminary discussions before joining the European association.

The Bulgarian association was created in 2010, because of the disturbing lack of safety on more than 80.000 dangerous elevators in the country. The target of the association is straightforward: the full application of the European directives and CEN norms.

They want the government to reform the present local regulations which are not satisfactory. ELA will help our Bulgarian colleagues to the best of our capabilities.



[www.bla.bg](http://www.bla.bg)



For more information please contact ELA at following address  
E-mail : [luc.rivet@ela-aisbl.org](mailto:luc.rivet@ela-aisbl.org)  
Web : [www.ela-aisbl.org](http://www.ela-aisbl.org)

Boulevard du Souverain/Vorstlaan, 207/5  
B-1160 Brussels  
Tel: +32 2 779 50 82 Fax: + 32 2 772 16 85