



EAPA NEWS

EAPA HELD ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SYMPOSIUM ON “ASPHALT - THE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE” IN MADRID!

On May 20th, 2010 more than 90 delegates came together at the much appreciated and praised **2010 EAPA Symposium** in Madrid, which was co-hosted by EAPA's Spanish member ASEFMA to discuss the Future of Asphalt. In a time where the environment needs particular protection and the 2020 Goals of the EU have to be met, sustainability needs particular attention. When it comes to choosing the right pavement, the EAPA symposium clearly showed that asphalt is the sustainable solution for the road of the future.

After a warm word of welcome by **Alan Mackenzie, EAPA's President** in which he thanked ASEFMA and the EAPA secretariat for organising this event, he particularly stressed that EAPA has overcome its internal difficulties of 2008 and that EAPA is now “in the solutions business”.

The first session of the day focussed on the **Health and Safety of the Workforce**. **Ib Frandsen** from the Danish member Asfaltindustrien discussed the **Results of the IARC and NCC Study**, which focused on the link between exposure to bitumen fume and lung cancer. The result showed that there is no conclusive evidence of such a link. However, the study acknowledges that importance and results of the continuous trend towards minimizing inhalation and dermal exposures.



Prof. Monika Raulf-Heimsoth from the Ruhr University Bochum talked a study that investigated the irritative and genotoxic effects of vapours and aerosols of bitumen in particular for mastic asphalt. The conclusions drawn from this **Human Bitumen Study** were that...

- ... in the lower airways inflammatory effects could be detected in the bitumen-exposed group;
- ... there was no dose-response relation for all measured effect markers with bitumen exposure during a single shift;
- ... a single shift measurement of exposure is not sufficient to assess long-term exposure;
- ... assessment of lifetime exposure is weakened in strength by frequent changes of construction sites.

In the second session, which focused on **Technical Developments**, **Collin Loveday** from TARMAC, UK spoke about the **sustainability of Asphalt in terms of recyclability**. He stressed that Asphalt is 100% recyclable, in comparison to e.g. concrete! He compared the **carbon footprint of asphalt to different products and surprised the attendees with the result that the carbon footprint of asphalt is lower (45kg CO₂/t) than that of Orange Juice (1600kg CO₂/t)**. With regards to the maintenance of roads, a really current topic, he stressed that only proactive structural maintenance is good from an economically and environmental perspective.



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The second speaker of this session, **Juan-Jose Potti** from the Spanish host ASEFMA of this event, presented some highlights of the 5th Asefma Congress, which took place on the 19th May 2010. He addressed new maintenance techniques, Warm Asphalt Mix and Half Warm Asphalt Mix technologies, the use of crumbed rubber modified bitumen and crumbed rubber modified bitumen emulsion in Spain. Last but not least he presented the latest developments of EUCAT – the European Centre of Asphalt Technology, based at the Ciudad Real University.

EUCAT has three goals:

- To be the sectorial European reference in innovation and R+D for the DGXII (Science, Research & Development)
- To create an European centre for formation experimentation and simulation of our specific machinery
- To have a test track of over 3 km in length to test new materials and pavement sections

Two facilities will be built:

- The EUCAT headquarters will be located at the Ciudad Real University campus
- And the Formation and machinery test Centre and test track will be located in Valdepenas.

The goal is to have the headquarter ready in 2012.

In the last session, EAPA Veteran **Max van Devivere** from Eurovia addressed the topic of **Sustainable Pavement design and their requirements**. He concluded that there are indeed many technologies available which can contribute to a more sustainable infrastructure. However, more commitment from clients and road authorities is needed in order to promote and apply these technologies.

Closing out the final session about a **Sustainable Future**, **Simon van der Byl**, **EAPA Secretary General** had to replace **Dr. Helmut Morsi** from the Commission, who had to cancel his attendance on short notice. However, he provided EAPA with what he had intended to draw on for his presentation which was then delivered by Simon. Focusing on the **Commission consultation on the future trans-European transport network policy**, he emphasized the need to develop intermodality and grow the sustainable aspects of transport provision. He accepted that the existing TEN network would be a key plank in this, but he foresaw that there was still a need to get better at delivering transport that everyone could afford, without damaging the planet.



In his closing speech, **Alan MacKenzie** concluded that this successful Symposium indeed showed that **Asphalt is not the problem but the solution!** In addition he took that chance to thank **Ib Frandsen**, also an EAPA veteran, who is going to retire in the coming month, for his highly appreciated engagement and his long standing contributions to EAPA.