

ELA Newsletter

Autumn – Winter 2023 Edition

A WORD FROM THE ELA PRESIDENT (from the new ELA headquarters)



As always, our newsletter provides important communications from the Members of the Association together with reports of the main events in which ELA and/or its representatives were directly involved. The autumn started with ELA's usual participation in the interlift exhibition, which was also highly attended in this latest edition that took place in Augsburg (the next edition will take place in Nuremberg from 14 to 17 October 2025). You will find, on the following pages, the prestigious contribution that ELA wanted to bring, together with the partners of the World Elevator & Escalator Federation - WEEF to the 'VFA Forum'.

The President of ELA was also invited by PETAK and PALM to two very important moments in the life of the associations in Greece and Poland. Two prestigious ELA Members that ensure the highest quality of services and the highest level of assistance to local companies, representative of our sector.

As anticipated in the previous newsletter, ELA moved into its new offices on 1 November, where the ELA Board met for the first time on 1 December. The inauguration event took place in the presence of prestigious guests representing the European institutions. On this occasion, the 25 Years of ELA book was distributed to those present and the short video (soon to be posted on the Association's website) was projected.

Speaking of the European Institutions, it is worth mentioning ELA's presence at the most important events. I refer to the Machinery Expert Group (MEG) and the Lift Expert Group (LEG) whose work is coordinated by the European Commission. The undersigned

also participated in the usual annual meeting of the High-Level Forum on Standardisation (HLF), about which we report in the following pages.

The last meeting before the end of the year, which I think is worth mentioning, took place in Edinburgh on 5-6 December. In this 2023 edition, the International Elevator & Escalator Symposium (IEES) focused on the theme of 'sustainability and digitisation'. Once again, the contributions made by ELA as listed in the general seminar programme were very significant. As always in this last annual edition of the newsletter I would also like to add my best wishes for the upcoming Christmas holidays.

I wish you all a good read!

Roberto Zappa



New members appointed within ELA Committees & Working Groups (WGs):

- Johannes Frände (EEA) as new Chair of the Legal Committee;
- Marcel Kottelaar (VLR) (replacing Rudi van Seters) and Christian Dressler (EEA) (replacing Wolfgang Nothaft) as new members of the Codes & Standards Committee;
- Christian Dressler (EEA) as new member of the Components Committee;
- Marc Swinkels (EEA) as new member of the Safety, Education & Training Committee;
- Lukasz Książopolski (PALM) as new member of the Digitalization & Cybersecurity Committee;
- Niels de Bree (VLR) (replacing Piet Arbouw) as new member of the TELCO WG;
- Anabel Rodriguez (EEA) (replacing Javier Robledo) as new member of the SAEL WG;
- Frank Roussel (VSA) as new member of the ETSI Task Force;
- Isabella Ferrario (EEA) as new member of the Product Ecology WG.

VFA welcomes a new team member



Image: Anne Zerno

Graduate in engineering, Anne Zerno joined the VFA team since 1 August 2023. She supports the VFA standards team at the national level. With years of experience in the lift industry and many valuable contacts, Ms Zerno will further expand the standardisation work of VFA, in order to keep its members up to date with the latest standards.

SEELift Symposium 2023 in Skopje, North Macedonia



On 25 – 26 September 2023, the SEELift Network presented the “Lifts and Escalators Subject to Seismic Conditions and Safety and Energy Efficiency in Modernizing Existing Lifts,” the third regional symposium on lifts and escalators – SEELift 2023, in

Skopje, North Macedonia.

This event was organized by the MLA (Macedonian Lift Association), HUDIZ (Croatian Lift Association), and BLA (Bulgarian Lift Association). The leading topic of this year's event was on lifts and escalators in seismic conditions.

The Symposium welcomed more than 60 participants and speakers from North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Albania, Serbia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Italy, Turkey, Sweden, and the USA; reaching more countries than ever before the SEELift Network's aim towards shared knowledge and continuous cooperation in the South-East European region and beyond is firmly establishing itself.

SAEL WG ISSUED AN INFORMATION NOTE ON EN 81-70 STANDARD



The SAEL WG has developed an Information Note on EN 81-70 standard, Safety rules for the construction and installation of lifts – Particular applications for passenger and goods passenger lift - Part 70: Accessibility to lifts

for persons including people with disability, covering a summary of the document and main changes from EN 81-70:2003 to EN 81-70: 2021 +A1:2022.

The EN 81-70:2018, which was published to supersede the 2003 +A1:2004 version, was a full revision of the standard and reflected developments since the initial publication of the EN 81-70:2003 and experiences gained from its application. The EN 81-70:2018, however, failed the European Commission approval and was not cited in the Official Journal (OJ). The document was amended to address the

concerns and re-published in 2021. Nevertheless, this document went straight in revision, hence the latest version is currently EN 81-70:2021 +A1:2022, was published in July 2022 and listed in the OJ in August 2023.

The EN 81-70:2003 +A1:2004 version will be removed from the OJ listing on 21 February 2025.

The EN 81-70 standard does not define the moment it should be used. This is determined by the National building regulations. Unless dictated by National Building Standards, the building designer should advise whether a lift is required for access by disabled persons. If this is the case, EN 81-70 will apply.

This Information Note specifies the minimum requirements for safe, independent access and use of lifts by a wide range of persons, including people with disabilities. It covers the need of people with disabilities according to Annex A. Guidance on solutions for increased accessibility and usability are included within Annex D (informative).

The need for Amendment 1 was based on the following points:

- Modified requirements on luminance contrast by changing from the Light Reflectance Value (LRV) difference to Michelson contrast for symbols to their background
- Addition of requirement for illumination of control devices
- New Annex for guidance on measurement of luminance contrast

The EN 81-70:2021 +A1:2022 is currently in process of being transposed into ISO 8100-7. The technical content remains identical between both documents.

New regulation intended to improve the safety of older lifts

The Swedish government has decided on new requirements for older lifts to reduce the risk of accidents. The regulatory change means that lifts for passenger transport in residential buildings must hold suitable protection between the shaft door and the car door if there is a risk of being trapped in.

“The Swedish Association of Lifts and Escalators is pleased that the government has made a decision in a positive direction regarding increased safety of lifts. However, it is worrisome that no decision has yet been made to also raise the safety level for lifts that have no protection in the car opening. The current regulation disadvantages residential buildings. Since 2012, there are requirements for protection in the car opening for lifts in workplace buildings. Stricter rules for workplaces have yielded positive results and it is time to also bring residential buildings to the same safety level, says Sara Berggren, Secretary General of the Swedish Association of Lifts and Escalators.”

The Minister of Infrastructure and Housing of Sweden, Andreas Carlson commented on the decision:

«It is crucial to get protective measures in place so that no more children suffer from safety deficiencies in old lifts. The government’s decision means that if there is a risk of entrapment in the space between the doors, there must be a protection in place to prevent it.”

Older lifts that have a combination of a shaft door to the floor and a separate door to the car may have a gap between the doors large enough to fit a small child. Since 2000, there were at least six accidents and incidents in which, children have been entrapped between the doors. The latest occasion in May

2023 resulted in the death of a five-years-old boy in Gothenburg.

In many cases, property owners can increase the level of safety in older lifts through simple measures. One example of measures is to mount a so-called space guard on the shaft door to reduce the space between the doors in combination with a photocell list.

The new rules regarding protection between the doors apply to approximately 5,800 lifts in Sweden and the requirement must be met by 1 October 2031.

On 27 September 2023, the Swedish Association for Lifts and Escalators met with Infrastructure and Housing Minister, Andreas Carlson to present concerns regarding the new regulation.



Image: Daniel Nyman, Chairman Hissförbundet/ Swedish Association of Lifts and Escalators, Andreas Carlson, Infrastructure and Housing Minister, and Sara Berggren, Secretary General, Hissförbundet/ Swedish Association of Lifts and Escalators.

Team building within VSA



Image: VSA Technical Commission Team

On 12 September 2023, the VSA (Association of Swiss Elevator Companies) Technical Commission met for a team building at the Sursee Campus, in Switzerland. In addition to expertise in new information on standards and guidelines in the elevator industry, team spirit was also required for new challenges such as: driving excavators, building sewers, building houses and interpreting maps properly, etc. Every task was mastered with flying colors. This confirms the multi-abilities of VSA Technical Commission Team, to tackle together unusual issues and new challenges for improvement.



Image: VSA Technical Commission Team

Anniversary events in the presence of the President and Secretary General of ELA

A prestigious PETAK member and future EEA member, KLEEMANN GROUP, celebrated its 40th anniversary on 6 September 2023. A factory visit in Kilkis and a gala dinner in Thessaloniki provided the setting for this event.



Picture: Mr Yiannis Sanidiotis, Group General Manager, Kleemann Group

The 20th anniversary of the Polish Association of Lift Manufacturers (PALM) was celebrated in Warsaw on 26 October 2013. The conference that marked the event ('Past and Future of the Lift Industry') was attended by several ELA/EEA members.





VFA Forum Interlift 2023: WEEF introduces itself

At the 2023 edition of interlift, ELA presented the WEEF (World Elevator & Escalator Federation) to a wider audience. The debate with some members of the WEEF, who attended the on-site event (others via streaming connection), facilitated the exchange of information with the operators and visitors at the Augsburg exhibition. For more [information](#).

Vision:
"Certify once and use it everywhere"
 through Global Technical Harmonization for Lifts & Escalators

ELA's participation in the IEES

The International Elevator & Escalator Symposium (IEES) was held in Scotland on 5/6 December 2023

Besides the President of ELA, several representatives of ELA/EEA participated as speakers and offered their testimony on the topic under discussion: «Sustainability and Digitalisation».



"Sustainability and Digitalization"
 The Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland
 December 5-6, 2023

The 'political and leadership' value that the HLF for standardisation must express

ELA became member of the High-Level Forum (HLF) on European Standardisation, recently launched by the European Commission, with the purpose of harmonizing the standards priorities at the EU level, especially in supporting a green, digital, and more resilient single market. In light of this, the HLF on European Standardisation gathers a multi-stakeholder set-up of maximum 60 members; comprised of high-level representatives (stakeholders from EU/EEA member states), European standardisation organisations, industry, civil society and academia. They meet 1-2 times a year with the objective to improve the European standardisation system. The ELA President, Roberto Zappa, takes part in this Forum to inform about the challenges faced by the lift and escalator industry. To consider the lift and escalator industry in the European standardisation system is a key-priority for ELA.

The President of ELA, accompanied by the Vice President, attended the annual meeting of the

High-Level Forum on standardisation organised by the European Commission and chaired by Commissioner Breton.

In this respect, the main working body of the HLF on European Standardisation is the 'Sherpa' sub-group, consisting of expert representatives of a maximum of 60 members, who meet 3 – 4 times a year. Every member is allowed to have up to 3 representatives to cover the expertise required for the green/digital transition and resilience objectives. Therefore, ELA's representatives in the 'Sherpa' sub-group are as follows:

- Alper Caliskan for the green transition
- Frank Roussel for digitalisation
- Carsten Henriksen for the resilience objectives of the European Standardisation system

The President mentioned the key areas of interest for the Association:

- Digitalization and interoperability of data;
- Simplification and acceleration of standards formulation in key areas such as accessibility and reliability;
- Interaction with the Smart Building Grid.

Roberto Zappa, the ELA President, also strongly emphasized the 'political and strategic' role that the Forum should play vis-à-vis and in support of standardisation bodies, especially European standards (CEN) but also, indirectly, international standards (ISO). The ELA President recalled the impetus given by ELA to the creation of the World Elevator & Escalator Federation (WEEF), which brings together numerous members worldwide. In the dialogue with China, it is now clear that mere dialogue between the respective certification bodies is not enough, while it is increasingly urgent to define a clear and shared framework of political-institutional cooperation. In fact, the risk we are running is that of sharing technical positions without these being part of a broader political and strategic framework to which we can refer.

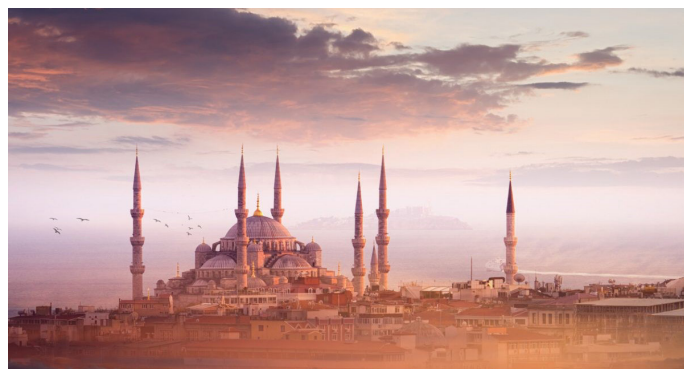
The HLF on European Standardisation will inform

about the Annual Union Work Programme for European Standardisation (AUWP), as a concrete action.

SAVE THE DATES 16 – 17 May 2024: ELA AND EEA GENERAL ASSEMBLIES & ELA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The ELA and EEA General Assembly 2024, and the ELA Annual Conference will take place in 16-17 May 2024 in Istanbul, Turkey. The ELA Secretariat invites you to save the dates, with the objective to hold this annual gathering in a warm atmosphere of Turkish flavours.

More information will follow in due time.



Interlift 2023: The world's most important trade fair for the elevator industry



Interlift 2023 showed an impressive return to pre-pandemic levels of success. With around 19,000 experts from the elevator industry from over 110 countries coming together in Augsburg, the trade fair was a hotspot for the exchange of industry innovations and trends. The feedback from more than 500 exhibitors and participants was consistently positive. Achim Hütter, chairman of VFA-Interlift e.V., emphasized: «interlift'23 was a huge success! We had excellent technical discussions and the quality of the visitors was exceptional. Many exhibitors commented that this edition was the best trade fair they had ever attended.»

The high number of visitors and the high quality of guests led to very positive feedback from exhibitors for interlift 2023. 90% of those involved rated their participation as very successful. Expectations for business after the trade fair are also high, with 90% of exhibitors speaking of very good to satisfactory prospects. It is therefore not surprising that 90% are already planning to participate in interlift 2025, while only 1% are currently not planning to attend. The next interlift will take place in Nuremberg on

14-17 October 2025, marking a new location for the world's leading trade fair for the elevator industry.



Image: Peter Hug, Wolfgang Addinger, Roberto Zappa, Achim Hütter

The Inauguration of the ELA new offices



ELA inaugurated its new offices, with the Board Members, on 1 December 2023. The ELA Secretariat had the opportunity to organise an inauguration drink and lunch, in order to welcome this Board meeting.



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