



Photos: ECG

A family event

by Aleksandra Plis

The venue of the ECG Spring Congress and General Assembly is always carefully chosen, as the Association's members gather to talk about what the past months resulted in and what the future may bring about, as well as to celebrate the end of another course of the highly-acclaimed ECG Academy. This year, a record number of 180 guests gathered at the Hotel Hesperia Madrid and in Casino Madrid for a two day-long event on 24-25 May.

Quite unexpectedly the capital of Spain welcomed the participants with a heavy rain storm. However, the cosy and family-like atmosphere of ECG meetings warmed the guest more than enough, so no one was worried about the weather anymore. The congress started with the annual board election and reports prepared by each ECG Working Group. Day 1 continued in the evening at the Casino Madrid with a refined dinner, including some flamenco to give the meeting a proper Spanish twist. Delegates also had the occasion to congratulate all 21 students that graduated from Course 12 of the ECG Academy. In this context, Mosolf's Wolfgang Göbel, ECG President, underlined the Association's new focus, namely making

an effort to real-life implement the projects the Academy students worked flat out on throughout their programme.

Good, unexpected news

Inés Ayala Sender, a member of the European Parliament, kicked off Day 2. She elaborated on the next edition of the Connecting Europe Facility, ensuring that there will be money for investments in infrastructure and mobility. Inés Ayala Sender also talked about the current most topical challenges the EU is confronted with, particularly negotiations on Brexit and the Parliament now focusing more on standardising the European defence policy. According to the next speaker, Justin Cox, LMC Automotive, we're currently enjoying a period

of synchronized economic growth across all regions key to finished vehicle logistics. This is of course good news, Cox underlined, yet somewhat unexpected and quite rare. Nevertheless, he added, the automotive market should, by all means, take advantage of this situation. Ben Waller, ICDP, shared some insights into the Caesar project, which involves several original equipment manufacturers and logistics service providers and which is aimed at tackling capacity shortages by improving forecasting methodologies. Next, Chris Godfrey, Alliance Logistics Europe, made a very personal presentation, putting the spotlight on the major changes that he noticed during his 30 years-rich career and which impacted the logistics sector. Mike Sturgeon, Executive Director, ECG, talked in





turn about the Worlds Harmonised Light Vehicle Test Procedure, a new laboratory test that will be used to measure fuel consumption and CO₂ emissions from passenger cars. It will replace the outdated New European Driving Cycle, designed in the 1980s. The goal of the new Procedure is to provide more realistic test conditions that will deliver more accurate data. Afterwards, Fernando Liesa, Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe, discussed the latest trends that are impacting the logistics sector, such as digitalisation, e-commercialization of trade, and the strive to decarbonise the transport industry. His speech was followed by Matthew Baldwin, DG Move, and Matthias Maedge, International Road Transport Union, who talked about priorities for 2018 and beyond, i.e., focusing more on multimodality (which is the official EU transport theme for this year) or working on the Mobility Package. The official part of the ECG Spring Congress and General Assembly was closed by Wolfgang Göbel, who already invited all guests to meet next year in the Italian Sorrento. In the meantime, the ECG Annual Conference – to go under the theme “Riding the wave – staying ahead in our fast-moving world” – will take place in Mainz on 25-26 October. ■



ECG re-elects its Board

During the event, the delegates unanimously voted for the Board for a term of one year as well as welcomed four new Board Members to a total of 14. President Wolfgang Göbel, Chief Sales Officer, Mosolf SE & Co. KG, received a new mandate for a second two-year term. Mats Eriksson, CEO, Axess, stepped down as Vice-President, but continues on the board for his 10th consecutive year. Four board members stood down: Olivier Benguigui (STVA), Marcos Duato (Flota Suardiaz), Ray MacDowall (ECM Vehicle Delivery Services), and Agustin Fernandez (UECC Iberica). Their positions were filled by Bjorn Svenningsen (UECC), who was also elected as Vice-President for a term of two years, Jean-Michel Floret (Groupe CAT), Mark Hindley (BCA), and Paul Steininger (Hödlmayr International AG). The remaining new Board Members duly re-elected are Marc Adriansens (ICO), Costantino Baldissara (Grimaldi Group), Michael Bünning (BLG Automobile Logistics), Krzysztof Dakowicz (Adampol), René Eisbrich (Lagermax), Ömer Gürsoy (Me-Par), Jon Kuiper (Koopman Logistics Group), and Christian Lang (DB Cargo Logistics). Last but not least, Both Michael Bünning (BLG Automobile Logistics) and Hervé Moulin (Renault Nissan Mitsubishi) were granted an Honorary Certificate in Automobile Logistics Management, awarded each year for outstanding achievement in the field of finished vehicle logistics.

Course 12 concludes

A total of 21 young professionals graduated from the 12th edition of the ECG Academy. By gaining their Certificates in Automobile Logistics Management they reinforced the ranks of more than 200 of the Academy's alumni. Each year one exceptional student receives the distinction of being awarded the Giovanni Paci award for Best Student. This year the honour went extraordinarily to two outstanding students for their performance and excellence – Patrick Palussek (Glovis) and Andreea Popa (Renault Nissan Mitsubishi). The ECG Academy was developed in partnership with the Education Unit of KPMG, an Amstelveen-based professional service company, back in 2006 in response to the demand for specialist training for middle managers working in the finished vehicle logistics sector. The Certificate in Automobile Logistics Management is the only formal qualification in vehicle logistics available anywhere in the world. The course takes place over five modules and at least 24 days with a combination of intensive practice-oriented training and classroom work. These modules are held at different locations around Europe to give the participants insight into the practical realities of the various elements that make up vehicle logistics as well as the regional variations across Europe. In addition to its standard programme, the ECG Academy will launch a new one-day course on compliance law training, developed in co-op with Contrast Law, a Belgian law firm. The first course will be held this September. Last year, the Academy launched the negotiation management course, prepared in partnership with the Negotiation Academy Potsdam at the University of Potsdam.

Scan the QR codes to access the agenda of the ECG Spring Congress and General Assembly as well as presentations delivered during the event

Agenda:



Presentations:

