

CEAS Annual Report 2012

By Pierre Bescond

CEAS again had a very busy year in 2012, even though there was no CEAS Aerospace Conference since they are held in odd years. Time and efforts were spent to implement and consolidate our main actions along the roadmap approved a year ago as our strategy plan. All Trustees are highly recognized professionals in the aerospace world and indeed they do help promote aerospace by participating as experts in worldwide conferences and in organizations of all kinds: national societies, foreign societies, international Working Groups and Programme Committees, EC contracts... As I prepare to hand over the Presidency to David Marshall from the Royal Aeronautical Society, I am convinced that CEAS is gradually getting the right recognition from all these organizations as well as from its Member Societies. Our efforts are rewarding and I will enjoy remaining active within the Board.

We met 3 times at Board level : 1- in the Brussels ESA offices (1st of March), on which occasion Dr. Jack Metthey, Director “Framework Programme, Interinstitutional Relations”, of the European Commission DG Research & Innovation, made a very informative presentation to the Board : “Horizon 2020, The EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation 2014-2020”, 2- at the offices of the Hellenic Engineering Chambers Headquarters in Athens (15th of June) hosted by HAES, and 3- at the National Research and Development Institute for Gas Turbines (COMOTI) Headquarters in Bucharest (25th of October) hosted by AAAR. We are very grateful to all those who organized beautiful receptions or dinners in these various places.

There was no new member in 2012, except for the confirmation of ESA as a corporate partner of CEAS under terms of agreement which were agreed upon and will be proposed to other European organizations showing interest. Contacts are pursued with societies in a few countries such as Cyprus and Latvia to propose them to become members while I suggested an Austrian Professor to launch the creation of a society in his country which does not have one.

We held a General Assembly meeting before the Board meeting in Bucharest and noted some changes in the Board of Trustees. David Marshall was unanimously elected President of the Board for 2012. Pierre Bescond was elected to succeed François Gayet as VP External Affairs & Publications and as such will chair the PCC when it needs to meet. All other Officers were unanimously confirmed by the Board: Paul Bailey Vice-President Finances, Dr. Kaj Lundahl VP Awards & Membership, Dr. Christophe Hermans Chairman Aeronautics Branch, Dr. Constantinos Stavriniadis Chairman Space Branch, and Mrs Mercedes Oliver CEAS Director General.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Gayet, the PCC led the Conference Programming Management Information System (CPMIS) to its maturation in collaboration with ASD. This tool makes some space available for paying adverts and this was used for the first time by the Farnborough Airshow in 2011 while another conference organizer showed interest for its November 2012 event. All Trustees will advertise this possibility within their professional networks. ASD agreed to continue our collaboration in managing and maintaining this finalized version under the same terms.

Our strategic action plan was implemented along its four lines: develop and maintain strong relationships with relevant EU bodies, promote aerospace towards students and young professionals, disseminate knowledge through conferences, journals, and Technical Committees, and engage into organised international co-operation although this 4th line is just being written now, based on the experience gained through the first three ones.

Conferences in 2012 made CEAS visible in many places. The 18th AIAA/CEAS Aeroacoustics conference was held in Colorado Springs, USA, 4 – 6 June with a good participation of our experts of the ASC (Aeroacoustics Specialists' Committee). An agreement covering the organisational aspects of these conferences in Europe was signed with AIAA which can be the basis of other agreements of the same type. As President I was invited to give a welcoming speech with an introduction of CEAS at the 38th European Rotorcraft Forum ERF 2012, organized by NVvL and co-badged with CEAS in Amsterdam on September 4. At the 61st DGLR conference "Deutscher Luft- und Raumfahrt Kongress 2012" in Berlin on September 10, I was exposed, through a videoclip produced by ONERA, as a witness in the opening plenary session for the 100th anniversary of DGLR. It also is worth mentioning that several of our Trustees are active in the International Council of Aerospace Sciences and attended its Congress ICAS 2012 in Brisbane, Australia, end of September.

Our members are very actively preparing the 2013 conferences. The 3 major European technical conferences sponsored by CEAS are getting full attention. The CEAS Specialists Conference in Guidance, Navigation and Control CEAS EuroGNC 2013 will take place at the Delft University of Technology, 10-12 April 2013, and will include a joint ECAero forum between CEAS and EUCASS. The 19th AIAA/CEAS Aeroacoustics Conference will be held in Berlin, 27–29 May 2013. And the International Forum of Aeroelasticity and Structural Dynamics IFASD 2013 will be organized by the Royal Aeronautical Society, in the UK for the first time since 1995, in Bristol, 24-27 June 2013.

Then the 4th CEAS Air and Space Conference will be organized in Linköping, Sweden, 16 - 19 September 2013 by the Linköping University and our member FTF, the Swedish Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics, on the occasion of their eighth Congress arranged every third year. Many Trustees volunteered to work within the Programme Committee and bring concrete help to the organisation.

We begin to be much better known and appreciated in the European Commission through a number of programmes and contracts. We participated to the EC REStARTS (Raising European Students Awareness in Aeronautical Research Through School-Labs) workshop in Brussels February 29, hoping to join the program by teaming with our member VKI in a consortium which had won the initial contract. Unfortunately, the Commission did not play the continuity in the new FP7 Call and we lost the REStARTS 2 contract. So we now are targeting other RFPs dealing with promotion of aerospace towards students and young professionals. On ECAero the partners (CEAS, ECCOMAS, ERCOFTAC, EUROMECH, EUROTURBO and EUCASS) obtained an extension of the contract till the end of October 2013. We met six times in 2012, and clearly are beginning to much better know each other and work together at harmonizing the European Aerospace Research landscape. One of these meetings was held in Vienna, Austria, September 14 during the big ECCOMAS Congress (2000 participants) where CEAS organized a joint session with ECCOMAS. As was done in Venice, sessions with papers from all six partners will be planned in the Linköping conference, tentatively better integrated within the conference programme, perhaps along the main objectives set up by the Commission in its 2020 vision. In line with our 2nd strategic action line (promote aerospace towards students and young professionals), Mr. Marshall proposed we try and join the EC Advisory Committee for Aeronautics Research in Europe (ACARE) and explore the ways of doing it. There may be a possibility with VKI again and the University of Lester through the Research Programme for Aeronautics described in 2 documents: "Programmes and Initiatives for the Human Potential on European Level" and "Realising Europe's vision for aviation - Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, SRIA, Volume 1" in which for the first time education is a key point. Our experts certainly can bring a lot to the Commission in this field. The Board approved the initiative and it will be a major effort in 2013.

In addition a few but limited contacts were made with other European aerospace organisations like EASA: they will have to be pursued and expanded.

Awards also are a good show case for CEAS. The CEAS Gold Award 2012, extended to Professor Manfred Fuchs, CEO of OHB-System AG was not handed over this year for lack of a prominent adequate event: so to that effect we plan to organize a specific party with OHB in Brussels on the occasion of our 22nd CEAS BoT meeting on the 6th of March 2013 evening. For the CEAS Gold Award 2013, the nomination of Mr. Louis Gallois, former CEO of EADS, proposed by 3AF and endorsed by RAeS was unanimously approved by the Board. It is planned to extend it at the gala dinner of the CEAS Air and Space Conference in Linköping.

CEAS endorsed three nominations proposed by the Aeroacoustics Specialists' Committee, for Aeroacoustics awards to be handed over at their Conference in Berlin in May 2013, to Pr. Christopher Morfey from ISVR Southampton for 2011, to Dr. Ulf Michel retired from DLR-Berlin and associate Professor at TU Berlin for 2012, and to Dr. Andrew Kempton, from Rolls-Royce and associate Professor at ISVR for 2013.

I am glad to again extend our warm congratulations to two of our Trustees who were honoured this year. Sergey Chernyshev, Chief Executive of the Central Aerohydrodynamic Institute Russian Aerospace Society (TsAGI), was awarded the French National Order of Merit at a ceremony which took place at the ONERA Meudon Centre (France) on 31st January 2012. The medal was handed over by Denis Maugars, CEO of ONERA, in the presence of several French, European and Russian VIPs. And Franco Persiani, from Bologna University and AIDAA President, was inducted Honorary Member of the Greek Society (HAES) by its President Ioannis Vakraos at a ceremony and reception on the eve of our BoT meeting in Athens, 14th June 2012.

CEAS publications went according to plan in 2012: the four issues of the CEAS Bulletin, always produced and distributed on time by our Editor-in-Chief Jean-Pierre Sanfourche remain a good promotional tool towards European institutions, professional organisations, research establishments and industry. The CEAS Aeronautical and Space Journals were also published according to plan but need more publicity towards all potential authors, in particular those in our conferences who should take advantage of these European publications of choice now that they exist. The website www.ceas.org is fully operational. Mr. Vermin, EUROAVIA President, presented CEAS for Students, a Website dedicated to Students & Recent Graduates, a powerful tool which they created to network internally and with CEAS members.

To be remembered also, although they are not a CEAS publication, the minutes of the EC Aerodays 2011, published at the beginning of this year, were written by Jean-Pierre Sanfourche following Dr. Knoerzer's request.

In conclusion let me again heartily thank all Trustees and Officers of the Board for their team spirit and the valiant support they provided me with during my 2 years tenure. I believe the dynamic for very concrete action is set and I know that with David Marshall at the helm it will not weaken. So on behalf of all of us let me wish him "Bonne chance" and assure him of our continued strong support for this great cause we pursue at the service of our Members: help build a great future for European aerospace.

Pierre BESCOND

President of CEAS in 2012

November 2012