



EAPA Magazine Issue 52 – March 2023



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# Introduction



The year 2020 and the year 2021 were marked by the pandemic. One year ago, the E&E Congress 2021 in Madrid was held in virtual VR/2D format. These 2 years forced us all to work very differently, digitally or virtually. EAPA demonstrated a great capacity to adapt.

The year 2022 seemed to be the year of recovery, of normality. There was a widespread desire to regain personal contact and the level of economic activity that existed before the pandemic. So 2022 began. The prospects did not look bad.

The truth is that this year 2022 has by no means been an easy year and several very relevant events have taken place, which will be analysed in this editorial by way of a balance.

The main concern for our sector this year has been the rise in the price of raw materials and energy. In the first months of 2022, in the face of rising energy and raw material prices, the development of the activity was not evident, the signing of some contracts for the award of works was delayed and doubts arose about the future of the activity. The situation was serious. It seemed that a large part of the hopes accumulated at the end of 2021 could be dashed because another enemy was appearing after the pandemic. At this point, it is worth remembering that not all EU countries have an automatic price review clause. In Spain, for example, contracts for the rehabilitation of works or the reinforcement of road surfaces have established for more than 10 years that there is no possibility of revision of the price of raw materials and, evidently, in view of the 30-40% increases experienced, we just had to wait for prices to recover the trend of previous years.

Such a situation did not arise in 2022. Moreover, the war in Ukraine contributed to the volatility of the situation, especially in the face of energy shortages.

In the months between March and August, the sector has been very close to a standstill and it is only fair to recognise the speed and efficiency with which the situation has been managed by the National Associations belonging to EAPA. In Spain, for example, it has taken 3 Royal Decree-Laws recognising the "exceptional nature of the situation" to create a climate of economic stability by establishing a procedure for the revision of prices.

There is no doubt that the role of national associations in our sector is becoming increasingly important in order to be able to resolve situa-

tions such as those we have experienced this year. The same conclusion was reached at the "International Conference on Asphalt 4.0", #ICA4point0, held in Madrid on 20 and 21 September. The #ICA4point0 was born from a need detected by Asefma and ZAS and shared by EAPA. As could be seen in the first session, the Public Administration participates in the interest and objectives of the digitisation of the paving sector, but it was necessary to create forums in which companies, associations, universities, etc... and the administration itself could work together. Faced with this very changing and dynamic panorama, it seems particularly important to hold an annual meeting around #ICA4point0. The main objective of this annual meeting will be to compile and publicise all existing digital developments.

One of the conclusions that emerged from the discussions was the role of national associations and, in particular, EAPA. As a European reference point, it can build on the conclusions of the #ICA4point0 to stimulate the short and medium-term objectives and to collaborate in the dissemination of existing digital technologies.

As a result of the above arguments, it was agreed to hold the second edition of the International Conference on Asphalt 4.0 in Madrid on 26-27 September 2023.

The E&E Event in Vienna, 14-15 November, confirmed the main axes along which this sector is moving: environmental requirements, digitalisation and resilience. It was undoubtedly another success story and showed the importance of working together with two major European associations: EAPA and Eurobitume to mobilise and accelerate the necessary efforts towards these major challenges.

To sum up, one could conclude that it has been an intense year, very intense but it leaves a very positive feeling in particular, in my view, it has shown the importance of the associations. EAPA is developing a huge activity and has consolidated a great working team. I have been on the Executive Committee of EAPA for more than 15 years and can only underline the harmony and excellent collaboration among its members. EAPA is currently in very good health.

I would not like to conclude this brief review without recalling the imminent 50th anniversary of EAPA which we will start celebrating in 2023. I think it is only fair to acknowledge the legacy we have received and the momentum that has been built up in EAPA in recent years.

*Congratulations!*

*Juan José Potti  
EAPA President  
2021-2023*

## EAPA News

### E&E Event in Vienna

The E&E Event organised by EAPA and Eurobitume, took place last November at the Hilton Vienna Park Hotel and it was a key exchange platform for industry and stakeholders related to the bitumen and asphalt industry to review current issues, identify new challenges and explore possible solutions.

Over the two days of the E&E Event, the participants had the opportunity to further increase their knowledge and understanding through invited expert speakers, interactive discussions and face-to-face exchanges. Besides this, the participants had access to an adjacent exhibition area, generous coffee breaks and an evening social event to maximise the time for networking.

Six important strategic issues for the Asphalt Industry were discussed by a wide range of stakeholders. How to work effectively with sustainability, future mobility and key changes to manage, health and safety, Asphalt 4.0 and Digitalisation, and the utilisation of communication to promote the Asphalt industry were the main subjects discussed throughout the two days of the event.

The E&E Event had Peter Woodward as the moderator and Mark Beaumont as a special guest speaker. The amazing panel of speakers during the two days of the event was composed by:

- Philippe Moseley, from the European Commission, DG GROW
- Blake Wellman, Monitor from Deloitte
- Thor Asbjørn Lunaas, from the Norwegian Public Roads Administration
- Geir Lange, from Veidekke Industri AS
- Thierry Goger, from Europe's National Road Research Centres
- Breixo Gomez, from EAPA
- Christophe Nicodeme, from the European Union Road Federation
- Aida Marza Beltran, from Becsa
- Shahin Eskandarsefat, from Iterchimica
- Navid Hasheminejad, from the University of Antwerp
- Bernhard Hofko, from the Vienna University of Technology

- Sheila Barkevich, President of Women of Asphalt
- Mike Southern, from Bituconsult
- Andreas Stahl, from the German Asphalt Pavement Association
- Ian Lancaster, from Eurobitume
- Slovenko Henigman, from the Slovenian Asphalt Pavement Association
- Leandro Harries, from Transportation Infrastructure Engineering and the Technical University of Darmstadt
- Carsten Karcher, Secretary-General from EAPA
- Siobhan McKelvey, Director General of Eurobitume

With 333 participants from 40 countries, 42 sponsors and exhibitors and 17 lectures, the first day of the event was followed by a fruitful networking evening.

The E&E Event is a unique event, centred around a series of professionally facilitated sessions between experts and participants using debates, workshops and information exchanges on key issues related to the future of the Asphalt Industry, supported by online tools that allowed the participants to have their input before, during and after the event.

There is no call for abstracts and each session was supported by selected experts.

The event was held both physically in Vienna and virtually on the Congress platform, giving an opportunity to connect online to all of those who were not able to travel to Vienna. Access to the virtual platform was also made available for the in-person participants, allowing them to stay only one day in Vienna and attend the event virtually on their way home or from their office.

The #RunnersLoveAsphalt Campaign was also presented at the event, as well as its first winners: the "Inglorious Runners". Based in Brussels and, as they describe themselves, "a group of people



from Belgium, Italy and Greece who dreamt to run a half marathon and they did it!", the Inglorious Runners were extremely active on social media and in sharing the #RunnersLoveAsphalt hashtag, what clearly called our attention and made them the obvious winners.

A special **Thank you** go to all EAPA members that supported the Event either as a sponsor or exhibitor! More specifically, Cargill, Ingevity, Vialit, Evonik, Fliegl, infraTest, JRS Rettenmaier, Kraton, Q Point, Sasol and Sripath.

And of course, **Thank You** to our public and everyone that took a bit of their time, some of them, even took a plane or a train, to be part of this event!



Blake Wellman

Curro Lucas and Juan José Potti



Aida Marzá

Carsten Karcher and Siobhan McKelvey



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# EAPA Meeting dates

*Dear EAPA Member, Please save the dates.*

**29 March 2023** – ExCo and DIR Group Meeting Madrid

**30 March 2023** – General Council Assembly in Madrid

**30 and 31 March 2023** – Celebration of 50 years of EAPA in Madrid

**18-20 April 2023** – EAPA Spring Meetings (TC, HSE and Asphalt 4.0) in Sweden

**20 April 2023** – Communication Committee

**10-12 October 2023** – EAPA Autumn Meetings (TC, HSE and Asphalt 4.0)

**24-25 October 2023** – ExCo and DIR Group Meeting in Bonn

**19-21 June 2024** – E&E Congress in Budapest



*We are looking forward to seeing to there.*



## BAUMA

Bauma, the world's leading trade fair for construction, building and mining equipment took place on 24-30 October 2022. This huge event, which happens only once every 3 years, gathered a total of around 3,200 exhibitors from 60 countries and more than 495,000 visitors from over 200 countries.

Stefan Rummel, the CEO of Messe München responsible for the event, explained: "This bauma has again stoked enthusiasm and fascination! After the world fundamentally changed following the last Bauma, we're really thrilled that Bauma 2022 demonstrates the trade fair remains a powerhouse of the construction-equipment industry thanks to our customer's great variety of innovations, good business deals and many visitors from all over the world."

After the pandemic of the last years and the great commercial success of this edition, it is clear that industries needed this kind of in-person event where everyone can directly experience products and hold personal conversations.

But Bauma did not just showcase its strength as a business platform; the trade fair also lived up to its leadership claim in setting topics for the event. Digitalization and automation were topics that dominated the trade fair, a trend that, according to Joachim Schmid, Managing Director of the Construction Machinery and Building Material Association of the German Engineering Federation (VDMA), has become irreversible.

Over the 7 days of the exhibition, not only the traditional companies but also the nearly 50 startups, which participated for the first time, offered solutions to address current challenges related to CO2 neutrality as well as tackling the issue of skilled worker shortages with automation and digitalization. In addition, the numerous shows and prototypes brought by companies gave visitors the opportunity to experience first-hand the future today.

In this edition, EAPA Associate Members, such as Ammann, Benninghoven, Caterpillar, InfraTest, Fliegl and Vögele were well represented with impressive booths and exhibition areas. EAPA Secretary General Carsten Karcher and EAPA Technical Director Breixo Gomez also had the chance to spend 3 days exchanging, experiencing and learning about the latest technological solutions, especially in the fields of sustainability and Asphalt 4.0.

Breixo Gomez commented that "while in the past, big machines used to draw all the attention, in the previous edition, the trend had already shifted towards smart and autonomous equipment. This edition confirmed this trend and, on top of it, brought a whole new generation of electrified equipment, which has great potential to decarbonise the whole production and supply chain of asphalt materials". He also promised to release soon a special episode on YouTube series "Generation sphalt" with all the material recorded during these days.

After the great success, the next Bauma has been already confirmed and will be held, again in Munich, on 7-13 April 2025.



Carsten Karcher, Breixo Gomez, Katharina Kratz, Michael Frank

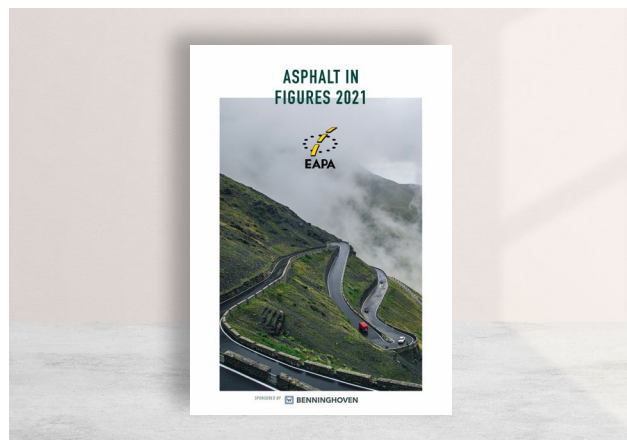


## Asphalt in Figures

The new issue of the well-known EAPA publication "Asphalt in Figures" is already available on the EAPA [website](#), summarising the production of the European asphalt sector in 2021.

The data refers to production, types of asphalt, applications, re-use/recycling rates, and the number of companies and production sites. These figures have been established with the assistance of the members of the European Asphalt Pavement Association, being at the moment the best available and most reliable data for the asphalt industry.

By the second time, the figures were made available also in Excel format, making it easier for the reader to import and analyse the data in further studies.

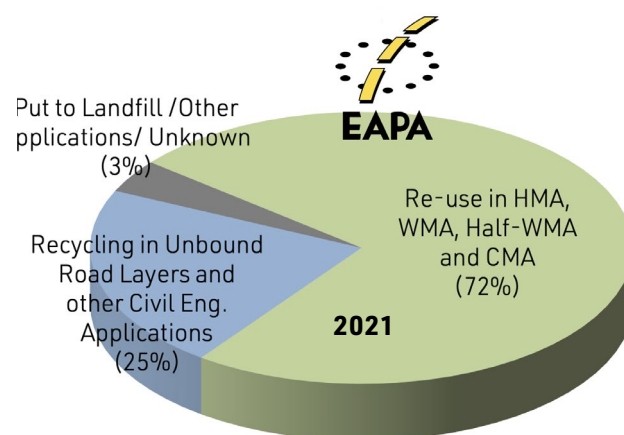


In 2021, the total production was 220,7 million tonnes for the EU-27 countries and 290,6 Mt considering further countries, such as Norway, Switzerland, Great Britain and Turkey. Compared to the previous year, these figures represent increases of 5,9% and 5,0% respectively, compensating for the reductions registered in 2020 (most likely) driven by the Covid-19 crisis, and reaching new levels even higher than in 2019.



In addition, the production of Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA), an important tool to reduce the emissions and energy consumption of the sector, has been generally increasing over the last years, reaching new heights in 2021 with a production of 10,5 Mt.

Regarding the circular economy, the data from reporting countries showed that in such countries, 72% of the reclaimed asphalt available for the industry was re-used, 25% recycled and only 3% used on unknown applications or put to landfill.



These extraordinary figures make asphalt one of the best tools to achieve the ambitious environmental objectives of the European Union.

[ASPHALT IN FIGURES](#)

## New EAPA Member Q Point

At the beginning of the year 2023 company Q Point from Germany became a member of EAPA. Q Point aims is an independent platform with common standards to connect parties in the construction industry digitally. The products and services which form the supply chain, ranging from raw material suppliers to the construction site, need to be connected and organised. Q Point supports these industry professionals with their daily business and enables timely, cost-effective, quality road construction. Their road construction software was designed for clients to manage their projects effectively. The solutions are flexible and can be accessed from the office as well as on-site.

Learn more about [Q-Point](#).



## Cyclists Love Asphalt Campaign

After the amazing campaign "Runners Love Asphalt", now is the time for "Cyclists Love Asphalt"!

As its predecessor, this new campaign aims to show the diversity of the use of asphalt and to connect it to a larger audience than just car drivers, especially after the exponential increase of cyclists during and after the COVID pandemic.

To participate, cyclists from all over the world can simply share pictures, videos or stories on social media with the hashtags [#asphaltcyclists](#) and [#cyclistsloveasphalt](#).

As with the Runners Love Asphalt, the award is a set of "Cyclists Love Asphalt" t-shirts. The shirts will be available soon on the website of the German Asphalt Pavement Association: [Merchandising-Produkte: Deutscher Asphaltverband \(DAV\) e.V.](#)

Anyone can be part of this movement! If you are an asphalt cyclist, just tag us and use the hashtags [#asphaltcyclists](#) and [#cyclistsloveasphalt](#) on your pictures, videos and stories and share your love for cycling with us!

[MORE INFORMATION](#)





## 50 years of EAPA celebration with EAPA Members

EAPA turns 50 years this year and will celebrate all year with different events, but the main celebration for the members will be held on 30 and 31 March 2023 in Madrid!

The following general schedule is planned:

### Thursday, 30 March 2023:

General Council Assembly (GCA) in the morning followed by the 50 Years Celebration and dinner in the afternoon.

### Friday, 31 March 2023:

Visiting tour in Madrid.

### The start of EAPA

During the 'Conference on the Structural Design of Asphalt Pavements' held in London in 1972, several representatives of different national (European) asphalt associations met and decided to organise a European meeting. The German association (VT) was asked to prepare this meeting. The first meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1973 in Munich and here the representatives of the national associations started to prepare the actions needed to create a European Association. After that, a Preparatory Committee was created to make the preparations (and organise meetings) needed to be able to take a formal decision on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1973 for founding EAPA. The secretary of this Committee was Dr W.G. Jösch, the director of the German Asphalt Association VTA.

On 14<sup>th</sup> October 1973 representatives of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden met and founded the European Asphalt Pavement Association. People from Switzerland were guests because they had no official national association. There were also representatives from NAPA and from South Africa.



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## GAPA meeting in Washington

On 12 January 2023, the Global Asphalt Pavement Alliance held its latest meeting in Washington DC, United States. The meeting was held after the Transport Research Board meeting (TRB) and hosted by NAPA, the North American Asphalt Pavement Association.

Representatives of four member countries/regions (NAPA from the United States, AfPA from Australia, JRCA from Japan, and EAPA from Europe) were present in the NAPA Offices. More members and guests were participating online: SABITA from South Africa, AMAAC from Mexico, and Costa Rica. In total, almost twenty experts from all over the globe participated.

All representatives of these members exchanged on important asphalt topics in the world, presented from regional viewpoints. Some examples of topics were the promotion of asphalt and communication activities, technical issues, new mobility and its impact on asphalt roads, health & safety, sustainability and standardisation.

After a full day of fruitful and very informative discussions around these topics the meeting was closed late in the afternoon and the group met again for dinner to continue the exchange.



Participants of the GAPA Meeting in Washington from left to right: Hitoshi Fujita (JRCA), Carsten Karcher (EAPA), Brett Williams, Richard Willis (NAPA), Audrey Copeland (NAPA), Dave Mitchell (NAPA), Anna D'Angelo (AfPA), Josef Shacat (NAPA), Breixo Gomez (EAPA), Howard Marks (NAPA), Mats Wendel (EAPA).

On the screen: Kazunari Hirakawa (JRCA), Juan José Potti (EAPA), Amy Miller (NAPA/APA), Luis Guillermo Loria (Costa Rica), José Jorge Lopez (AAMAC), Phil Hendricks (SABITA).



## Letter from the Ukrainian Infrastructure Association

The Ukrainian Infrastructure Association UNITE is a Ukrainian-based NGO.

We are a membership-based organization. Our members are companies operating in the Ukrainian infrastructure field, mainly construction or production segments.

Road infrastructure is our key focus since our start in the summer of 2021. Therefore the majority of our members are road construction companies.

We have the Roads Infrastructure Committee, which is a platform for the cooperation of private sector representatives.

We develop and implement the best solutions for infrastructure development with a focus on public policy.

This means that we:

- Analyze practice and legislation;
- Develop and discuss better public policy solutions;
- Publicly advocate for changes.

We cooperate with key Ukrainian stakeholders both public and private.

Our main government partners are:

- Ministry for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine and its Reform Support Team;
- State Road Agency of Ukraine and its Reform Support Team;
- State Enterprise "M.P. Shulgin State Road Research Institute".

We also cooperate with the PIARC WORLD ROAD ASSOCIATION, the Association of Engineers-Consultants of Ukraine (Ukrainian partners of the FIDIC), other NGOs and Think Tanks.

The ongoing war changed a lot and challenged road construction in many ways. Though roads and bridge recovery is top-priority for Ukraine, especially when water and air transportation is limited or fully blocked.

Our current tasks are:

- Analyzing and advocating the importance of roads infrastructure (both in Ukraine and abroad);
- Implementation of international approaches and standards into roads construction and cost estimation;
- Eliminating regulatory burden from the sector;
- Legislative adaptation to wartime and recovery needs (including competitive and transparent procedures of procurement).

We are looking forward to cooperation with EAPA which will give us the opportunity to establish an exchange of best practices in the Asphalt Paving Industry and become a part of the voice of the industry in Europe.

*Ihor Samokhodsky,*  
UNITE Executive Director





# Want to advertise in the EAPA Magazine?

EAPA has currently released issue 52 of its Magazine. It started out as a Newsletter and grew out to becoming a full Magazine (30+ pages) over the years, as the popularity and number of readers grew. The EAPA Magazine goes out to the EAPA Members and Asphalt friends that have subscribed for EAPA information. The Magazine is sent via email as digital document to almost 2,000 subscribers. The Magazine is also placed on the EAPA website and information about the Magazine is shared on EAPA's social media channels such as Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. The Magazine is free of charge for the readers.

Only EAPA Members and members of EAPA members have the opportunity to advertise in the magazine. The size of the magazine is 210 x 297 mm and you can purchase full page or half page adverts.

For more information and costs please contact EAPA Secretary General Carsten Karcher.

[E-Mail](#)



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## News from Brussels

### EAPA/CEDR Webinar

Over the year 2022, EAPA Secretariat was involved in a series of meetings and events, in which different hot topics for the sector were discussed with the Secretariat of the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR).

An example of this was the Big Buyers for Climate and Environment initiative, jointly coordinated by the European Commission, ICLEI and Eurocities. Within this initiative, Eurocities led a Working Group on Circular Construction, which brought together cities, road authorities and market actors from all over Europe. Among other things, members of this initiative found the EAPA documents on Circular Economy very interesting and they also shared a series of questions related to the use of warm mix asphalt.

These exchanges were so productive, that the Secretariats of EAPA and CEDR decided to organise a webinar and invite all Members to participate and join the discussions.

The event, held on 8 December 2022, was chaired from the EAPA offices in Brussels, where CEDR Communication and Coordination Officer Konstantinos Andreopoulos joined EAPA Secretary General Carsten Karcher and Technical Director Breixo Gomez.

On the other side of the line, more than 40 Members from both Associations participated online and discussed over the 2 hours on the following topics: the circular economy of asphalt, warm mix asphalt and the Product Category Rules for the Environmental Product Declarations of bituminous mixtures.

The final part of the meeting consisted of an open exchange about different topics, such as the "resilience" of asphalt and the asphalt sector.

The meeting was closed by Carsten Karcher and Konstantinos Andreopoulos, who thanked the great participation from the membership and agreed on the benefits of repeating this kind of exchange on a regular basis.





## Conferences and Events

### AIA Sharing Best Practice Event 2022 EU Circular Talks

On 24 November 2022, the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) from the UK organised the so-called "Sharing Best Practice 2022" Event.

This edition was opened by Rick Green, Chair of AIA and divided into 4 sessions. The first two sessions, on net zero strategies and approaches to measurement, were chaired by Malcolm Simms, a Member of the EAPA Executive Committee. The third session consisted of a panel discussion in which Brian Kent, Member of the EAPA Directors Group, debated with Diane Ware (North Somerset Council), Malcolm Fairhurst (Bolton Council) and Rick Ashton (TotalEnergies) on the hot topic of Warm Mix Asphalt.

Session 4 consisted of a presentation by the EAPA Technical Director Breixo Gomez. In this, he explained the enormous importance that the concept of "resilience" is gaining at the European and national levels on policy and strategic whitepapers. In addition, he established some basis to define how this concept may steer the asphalt industry over the coming years and at different levels, i.e., material – pavement – road infrastructure – asphalt sector – society.

The topic of resilience is, in fact, so important for EAPA, that the Technical Committee has recently adopted it in the business plan as a priority and the association is already working on a position paper, which will be available soon on the EAPA website.



### EU CIRCULAR TALKS



On 22 November 2022 Rijkswaterstaat organised together with Holland Circular Hotspot, DGNB German Sustainable Building Council and the European Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform, the EU webinar on "Closing infrastructure material cycle through European cooperation".

The Webinar had the participation of Mr Aurel Laurențiu Plosceanu, President of the Romanian Construction Entrepreneur's association and Vice-President of the General Union of Romanian Industrialists, as well as Mr Philippe Moseley from the European Commission, who concluded that the infrastructure sector is not as organised as the building sector to raise their voice. The building sector has architects, real estate, NGOs, etc. lobbying for attention. Road authorities do not raise their voice enough when it comes to sustainability.

EAPA Technical Director Breixo Gomez participated in a panel session about asphalt, together with Dr Richard Gosselink (Wageningen University & Research) and Dr Rien Huurman (AsfaltNu). During this session, he had the chance to present the EAPA Paper containing the Recommendations for Road Authorities to achieve Circular Economy goals through the maintenance, reuse and recycling of asphalt.

The paper, which received excellent feedback, can be downloaded on the following link from the EAPA website:

## EAPA-Eurobitume activities

### Joint EAPA-Eurobitume exchange HSE/TC meeting

On 17 January 2023, EAPA and Eurobitume held the latest joint online meeting of their respective Health, Safety and Environment and Technical Committees.

This initiative, which has been annually repeated over the last 4 years, is well appreciated by the Members of both Associations for being an excellent opportunity to discuss the latest developments in the asphalt and bitumen industries, as well as to continue the good relationships between the Members from both sides.

On this occasion, the agenda started with the review of the E&E Event 2022 and the status of the organisation of the next E&E Congress 2024. Then, updates about what is going on at CEN's respective Technical Committees for bituminous mixtures and bituminous binders were exchanged, followed by interesting discussions about the next generation of standards. After lunch, discussions continued on a series of topics related to Health, Safety and the Environment, including the decarbonisation strategies towards the objective of becoming a carbon-neutral sector by 2050.

Finally, both Associations exchanged their latest publications and communication material.

The meeting was, again, found very valuable for the Members of both Associations, who already agreed to repeat it in approximately one year and keep exchanging through the year on more-specific topics, through ad-hoc video calls.



### Eurobitume Autumn Seminar with participation of Breixo Gomez

On 19 October 2022, Eurobitume organised their Autumn Seminar with the objective of creating a platform for their members to gain insight and a better understanding of sustainability related to their industry.

To achieve this, a series of speakers were invited to exchange and share their experiences. These were:

1. Rainer Henseleit (European Waterproofing Association) presented his experience in the Roofing Industry.
2. Chait Bhat (Asphalt Institute) gave a report on current activities within the bitumen industry in the United States.
3. Richard Taylor (Chair Eurobitume BSSG) and Laurent Porot (Chair Eurobitume TF EI-LCA) presented the current sustainability initiatives within Eurobitume.
4. Breixo Gomez (EAPA Technical Director) explained the current status within the Asphalt industry in Europe. In this, he especially focused on the status of the development of the Product Category Rules for the Environmental Product Declarations of asphalt mixtures, including an overview of the draft, which is under development by CEN TC227 WG6.

The agenda also included a generous time for exchange with Eurobitume Members and Q&A. The event was very successful and appreciated by the participants, so follow-up similar events are already being organised.





## Upcoming Conferences & Congresses

### *E&E Congress 2024 in Budapest – Call for Papers Open!*

After last year's E&E Event in Vienna, you can save the date for the next E&E Congress, which will be held in Budapest on 19-21 June 2024, under the main theme: "Resilience - Sustainability - Innovation".

**The call for papers is now open until 31 May 2023** and unlike in previous editions, on this occasion, there will be no previous call for abstracts.

Contributions are invited from all experts on the use of asphalt mixtures and/or bituminous binders, including road, rail and airport administrations, manufacturers and suppliers, transport economists, social scientists, infrastructure engineers, highway concessionaires, contractors, researchers and academics, consulting engineers, financial specialists and equipment manufacturers.

Manuscripts are expected to develop the overarching theme of the Congress by falling in (at least) one of the fields listed below:

- Asphalt mixture performance and testing
- Binder performance and testing
- Digitalisation & Asphalt 4.0
- Environment
- Future roads and mobility
- Health & Safety
- Maintenance and rehabilitation
- Procurement and funding
- Production and construction equipment
- Resilience
- Sustainability
- Training, career development and industry attractiveness
- Warm and cold technologies

The papers will be reviewed by at least two members of the E&E Congress 2024 Paper Review Committee. The acceptance criteria for the papers are:

- Technical content (or technical quality) of the paper

- Clarity and rigour (the paper should be clear, easy to understand, well structured, and based on well-founded arguments)
- The scientific and technical value
- Originality and/or innovative level
- Compliance with the Instructions for Authors

The Technical Programme Committee will select, based on the evaluation received from the Reviewers, which papers will be presented by the authors as oral presentations during the Congress sessions and which will be presented as posters. Independently on this, all the papers that are accepted will be published in the Congress Proceedings.

More information and guidance, as well as access to the Authors' User Zone for papers submission, can be found at

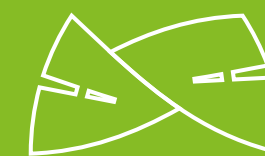
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## AV '23 - Conference ASPHALT PAVEMENTS 2023

The Conference **ASPHALT PAVEMENTS 2023 - "Let's asphalt out of the crisis"**, organised by the Czech Road Contractors Association, alongside with Czech Road Society, EAPA and Pragoprojekt, will be held in the Czech Republic in České Budějovice on 28-29 November 2023 in the Conference Hall "Metropol".

Material and pavement structures testing, Construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of asphalt pavements and Sustainability and digitalization of asphalt pavements are the main subjects to be discussed at the conference.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## International Road Maintenance Day #IRMD in April

The 6<sup>th</sup> International Road Maintenance Day (IRMD) or #IRMD2023, will be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.

The event will again be organised by the Spanish Asphalt Producers Association (Asociación Española de Fabricantes de Mezclas Asfálticas - Asefma), which shares the same President as EAPA, Juan José Potti.

Asefma invited all road sector stakeholders to a digital congress of reflection and analysis on the impact of road maintenance on the environment, under the heading "maintaining roads is protecting the environment".

This year's event wants to bring to the table a discussion about how road maintenance affects Social Development, the Environment and the Economy. As the organisers claim road maintenance ensures territorial cohesion and guarantees access to basic goods and services, bringing Social Development; Road maintenance is an effective action to prevent CO2 emissions from road transport, which is very important for the environment; Road Maintenance protects the road asset and avoids a debt burden on future generations, being a plus for the economy.

There is also an IRMD Manifesto that you can download from the official website.



[OFFICIAL WEBSITE](#)

## European Standardisation

### CEN TC227 "Road Materials" and CEN TC227 WG1 "Bituminous Mixtures"

After years of trying different strategies to get the product standards for bituminous mixtures (series EN 13108) cited in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), and considering that under the ongoing Acquis Revision System launched by the European Commission, a Standardisation Request will eventually replace the legal framework established by the old Mandate M/124, CEN TC227 decided in the latest Plenary Meeting to:

1. Stop the work on the revision of harmonised standards; and
2. Prepare for the possible development of a future Standardisation Request.

In order to implement this, CEN TC227 WG1 started in the latest meeting, on 8-9 November 2022, a new Task Group (TG5). It is important to highlight that although the Acquis Revision System is progressing slowly and is not expected to reach the product family of Road Materials soon, the fact of replacing the old Mandate M/124 gives an opportunity to think out of the box and re-define the content of harmonised product standards. This could involve, for example, the introduction of new classes for the Declaration of Performance.

The new TG5, officially kick-off the work on 24 January 2023 with a physical meeting at the EAPA offices in Brussels. On this occasion, not only the TG5 Members but also the Chairman of CEN TC227, Arash Khojinian, as well as CEN Project Manager Pavlina Karagianni, joined the meeting.

Among other things, the TG5 Terms of Reference were approved, the list of participants was confirmed and an initial brainstorm of possible development lines for the current product standards was performed. EAPA Technical Director Breixo Gomez was also appointed as Conenor of the Group.

Regarding the asphalt Test Method Standards, there are at the moment 17 active projects in different stages: under the 5-year systematic review, under CEN-Enquiry or simply under discussion in the WG.

### CEN TC227 WG6 – Sustainability

CEN TC227 WG6 continues working hard with meetings every month and with the aim of the publishing, as soon as possible, a CEN Technical Specification (CEN/TS) containing European Product Category Rules (PCR) for the Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) of bituminous mixtures.

This document is important because different countries are nowadays developing their own Green Public Procurement systems, which in many cases are based on EPDs, making necessary the corresponding PCR. As at the moment there is not any European document that can be taken as a reference, the process is being developed at the national level in a non-homogeneous way.

The drafting process has faced numerous challenges, including a long list of comments received from the corresponding National Standardisation Bodies, which in many cases made it difficult to find a consensus.

In addition, aspects such as how to allocate the impacts of the material at the end of its service life in conjunction with the different end-of-waste criteria existing across Europe, the definition of scenarios or the declaration of environmental benefits resulting from using mixes, such as WMA, required long discussions.

In the meeting held in December 2022, the group finally reached the end of the list of comments and since then, the new draft is being produced.



# EAPA meetings and dates

## CEN TC336 “Bituminous Binders” and CEN TC336 WG1 “Bituminous Binders for Paving”

The latest meeting of CEN TC336 WG1 was held on 16-17 November 2022 in Berlin. On this occasion, the meeting focused on the test methods standards, which are now active under systematic review or CEN-Enquiry. These include EN 13587 “Determination of the tensile properties of bituminous binders by the tensile test method”, EN 14769 “Accelerated long-term ageing conditioning by a Pressure Ageing Vessel (PAV)”, EN 14770 “Determination of complex shear modulus and phase angle using a Dynamic Shear Rheometer (DSR)”, EN 14771 “Determination of the flexural creep stiffness - Bending Beam Rheometer (BBR)”, EN 16659 “Multiple Stress Creep and Recovery Test (MSCRT)”, EN 1426 “Determination of needle penetration”, EN 1427 “Determination of the softening point - Ring and Ball method”, EN 12595 “Determination of kinematic viscosity”, EN 12596 “Determination of dynamic viscosity by vacuum capillary”, EN 12607-1 “Determination of the resistance to hardening under the influence of heat and air - Part 1: RTFOT method” and EN 14023 “Specification framework for polymer modified bitumens”.

In this meeting, the first report from the new TG14 was provided. This TG, which kicked off in May 2022 is aiming at discussing future specifications and sustainability aspects.

On 30 November and 1 December 2022, the CEN TC336 Plenary Meeting was held in Brussels. In this, it was decided to revise the content of the draft Standardisation Request prepared by the TC a couple of years ago. This draft was never used by the European Commission as they started the Acquis Revision Process. Since then, things changed and, for example, it is now mandatory to include essential characteristics related to the declaration of environmental impacts.

In this meeting, CEN Project Manager Pavlina Karagianni explained that it is expected that TCs will have to provide PCRs for EPDs, to develop the essential characteristics and fulfil the deliverables of the CPR regarding environmental characteristics. However, the decision at TC336 to finally start the development of a PCR for bituminous binders will not be adopted until the Task Group “Environmental Sustainability of Bituminous Binders” finishes the CEN/TR with the final recommendations in this regard.

This Task Group was started in October 2021 and since then, it has been reviewing standards and technical specifications from other product families (e.g. bituminous mixtures and aggregates), possible methodologies for environmental declaration (e.g. EPD, PEF) and discussing how to fit everything within the framework of a future Standardisation Request. The drafting of the recommendations has started but the TG has recently applied for an extension of the deadline, meaning that the document should be delivered in 2023.

## 2023

14-15 March 2023	CEN TC336 WG1 Bituminous Binders for Paving
16 March 2023	CEN TC227 WG6 Sustainability
29 March 2023	ExCo and DIR Group Meeting Madrid
30 March 2023	General Council Assembly in Madrid
30 and 31 March 2023	Celebration of 50 years of EAPA in Madrid
26 April 2023	CEN TC336 Chairman’s Advisory Group
18-20 April 2023	EAPA Spring Meetings (TC, HSE and Asphalt 4.0) in Gothenburg
10-11 May 2023	CEN TC227 WG1 Bituminous Mixtures
31 May 2023	CEN TC336 TF Environmental sustainability
6 June 2023	CEN TC336 Chairman’s Advisory Group
28 June 2023	CEN TC227 Plenary Meeting
10-12 October 2023	EAPA Autumn Meetings (TC, HSE and Asphalt 4.0)
24-25 October 2023	ExCo and DIR Group Meeting in Bonn
24-25 October 2023	CEN TC336 WG1 Bituminous Binders for Paving

## 2024

19-21 June 2024	E&E Congress in Budapest
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# Colophon

## Text

Breixo Gómez, Carsten Karcher, Frederica Dias

## Layout

Window Stories

## Pictures

Breixo Gómez, Carsten Karcher, Frederica Dias, UnSplash

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 <p>HAD - Croatian Asphalt Association</p>	 <p>German Asphalt Pavement Association</p>	 <p>EBA - Norwegian Contractors Association</p>	 <p>ESTICA - Estonian Infra Construction Association</p>
 <p>HAPA - Hungarian Asphalt Pavement Association</p>	 <p>IAPA - Irish Asphalt Pavement Association</p>	 <p>Infra Contractors Association, Finland</p>	 <p>MPA - Mineral Products Association, UK</p>
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