

## **CEAS Annual Report 2011**

*By Pierre Bescond*

As I begin my second year in office after my re-election as President on the 26th of November in Venice, I realize how much we've done in 2011, but also how time flies and how much remains to be done: we want to consolidate our position as "the only general Aeronautics and Space Society in Europe" as my predecessor Joe Szodruch noted, but also to make it known to all interested parties. The best way to achieve this is to demonstrate to our member Societies and to the aerospace community at large that we are at their service and that we can bring them clear tangible benefits. Indeed all our Trustees proved how much they agreed on this goal through their highly commendable dedication all along the year.

We met 3 times at Board level: at Airbus Military in Getafe (31st of March) on the occasion of Aerodays 2011 in Madrid with a AIAE hosted gala dinner at the Real Madrid Football Stadium, at the Aéroclub de France in Paris (23rd of June) hosted by 3AF on the occasion of Le Bourget Airshow, and at the Giorgio Cini Foundation in Venice (26th of October) during the 3rd CEAS Air and Space Conference hosted by AIDAA. Our thanks go to all those who organized beautiful receptions in all these places.

We welcomed 2 new members in 2011, Aeronautică si Astronautică a României (AAAR) from Romania as a full Corporate Member and the Von Karman Institute (VKI) from Belgium as an Associate Member. On this occasion Doctor Silivestru and Professor Arts respectively introduced AAAR and VKI. Unfortunately one Member left us at the end of the year for economic reasons, Ilmailuinsinöören Kerho (IIK) from Finland. We wish them to rapidly overcome these difficulties. We thanked Markku Roschier for his support as a Trustee and wrote him that we would be glad to welcome them back as soon as they are ready and willing. We also accepted to welcome ESA as a corporate partner of CEAS under terms of agreement which have been proposed to them and could be used for other potential partners (European organizations only).

We held a General Assembly meeting before the Board meeting in Venice and noted some changes in the Board of Trustees. Pierre Bescond who had been unanimously elected President of the Board for 2011 volunteered and was re-elected President for 2012. Therefore we had to appoint a new Vice-President Finances. Paul Bailey volunteered for this position and the Board unanimously approved his appointment. François Gayet proposed to be replaced at the end of 2011 as VP External Relations & Publications since he retired from ASD but he accepted the Board suggestion to continue in 2012 and was unanimously re-elected in this position. The Board unanimously re-elected Dr. Kaj Lundahl as VP Awards & Membership, no change having been proposed for this position. The rest of Officers were unanimously confirmed by the Board: Dr. Christophe Hermans Chairman Aeronautics Branch, Dr. Constantinos Stavrinidis Chairman Space Branch, Mr. François Gayet Chairman PCC and Mrs Mercedes Oliver CEAS Director General.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. Gayet, the PCC is now well structured and organized and it meets regularly before the Board meeting. The Conference Programming Management Information System (CPMIS) which he developed in collaboration with ASD is now officially operational. This tool, with open access to anyone on our website, is meant to help both ASD and CEAS to better plan and manage aerospace events by regrouping them all on a single platform, thus avoiding duplication of similar events. We decided to enhance it to introduce some space for paying adverts

and implement automatic workflow insertion to simplify its future management. This 2nd version would cost around € 6000. We hope ASD will agree to continue our collaboration in developing, managing and maintaining this new version under the same terms.

As a significant step forward, and in order to develop a roadmap towards our goals, we held a strategy meeting in Paris on September 7th which resulted in an action plan along four lines, namely: 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. The benefit of this approach is that it sets CEAS moving into a pragmatic and concrete handling of its missions, with measurable objectives. The fourth line remains to be written as a follow-up of the progress made and in view of the experience gained through the first three ones, respectively laid out by François Gayet, David Marshall and Christophe Hermans: approved with minor modifications at the October Board meeting, they are being implemented. In the frame of the action line "knowledge dissemination" it also was decided to change the Technical Committees structure, distinguishing between Technical Committees (the active ones) and Networks (the others). Thus were included in the Technical Committees two active groups which already have organized conferences under the name of CEAS, the CEAS Specialists Conference in Guidance, Navigation and Control (GNC) and the International Forum of Aeroelasticity and Structural Dynamics (IFASD).

In terms of conferences, 2011 was a very rich year for CEAS, with participation in Aerodays 2011, sponsoring 3 major European technical conferences, and conducting its 3rd CEAS Air and Space Conference.

A Students Contest organized by DGLR on its behalf was a major event of CEAS at Aerodays 2011 in Madrid also supported by the Spanish association Foro Aeronáutico. Dr. Dietrich Knoerzer, EC Project Officer, Mr. Bartolomé Marqués, INTA Subdirector General and Mr. Juan Carlos Cortés Pulido, CDTI Innovation Markets Director were also present. A welcome session to the Aerodays 2011 Students Participation Programme was held at the Aeronautics School on March 29th for those students who could not attend Aerodays, during which I gave an introduction of CEAS. Then the contest itself took place in the following days with many impressive papers and the Aerodays 2011 Students Awards were given on the stage at the end of the closing plenary session in the presence of Máire Geoghenan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, and all other high level Commission and Industry speakers. The CDTI Director General, organizer of the event in Madrid, congratulated CEAS for the remarkable work we did in organizing this contest and the CEAS Board extended his own congratulations to DGLR: Peter Brandt, and Philip Nickenig who replaced him as a Trustee upon his departure from DGLR, and especially the project manager Carsten Holze, CEO Machtwissen and member of DGLR. To be noted also since it will give prominent visibility to CEAS, the fact that upon Dr. Knoerzer's request it is our Editor-in-Chief Jean-Pierre Sanfourche who is writing the minutes of Aerodays 2011 for the EC.

The 3 major European technical conferences sponsored by CEAS were very successful. At the 1st CEAS Specialists Conference in Guidance, Navigation and Control (GNC) in Munich, 13-15 April 2011, organized by DGLR, I was invited to deliver a speech at the evening reception. Co-organized by 3AF, CEAS and AIAA, hosted by 3AF in Paris, 20-23 June 2011, the International Forum of Aeroelasticity and Structural Dynamics (IFASD) 2011 celebrated its 30th anniversary, triggering an outstanding participation. And the 37th European Rotorcraft Forum (ERF), one of the premier events on the rotorcraft community's calendar, in Versiate, 13-15 Sep 2011 was very successfully organized by the Rotorcraft Committee under the chairmanship of Christophe Hermans, Chairman of our Aeronautics Branch.

Last but not least, the 3rd CEAS Air and Space Conference, hosted by AIDAA under the chairmanship of CEAS Trustee and AIDAA President Professor Franco Persiani, coincided with the **XXIst AIDAA Congress, 17-21 October 2011, and was held at the Giorgio Cini Foundation in Venice**. Supported by national and international organizations, it was a real success with around 350 attendees. It also incorporated a dedicated Forum Day agreed upon with ECCOMAS within the scope of the ECAero contract CEAS signed in 2009 with five partners (ECCOMAS, ERCOFTAC, EUROMECH, EUROTURBO and EUCASS), and a seminar organized by the Associazione Arma Aeronautica, “*Sesar and the Military: Implications of the Single European Sky Implementation on the Military Air Component*”. Our most sincere congratulations go to the organizers Professor Franco Persiani and Doctor Sara Bagassi of Bologna University.

Speaking of ECAero, it is worth mentioning that the 6 partners of the current contract met in Brussels on November 23 to better manage this contract and be up to the European Commission expectations, the main objective being to bring the European efforts together to further harmonize the European Aeronautical Research landscape. We convened to meet every 2 to 3 months to consolidate our collaboration. Also, again within ECAero and in line with our action plan to promote aerospace towards students and young professionals, the Board decided to bid in a new FP7 EC Call, the REStARTS 2 project as part of a consortium with our member VKI.

Awards too gave excellent visibility of CEAS in 2011. During the Venice Conference Gala Dinner the CEAS Gold Award 2011 was handed over to Professor Stamatios Krimigis, a Greek-American scientist who contributed to the majority of the United States' unmanned space exploration programs of the *Solar system* and beyond. And upon a nomination proposed by RAeS and endorsed by DGLR, the Board of Trustees decided to extend the CEAS 2012 Award to Professor Manfred Fuchs, CEO of OHB-System AG. In addition CEAS answered positively to a proposal received from DGLR and IFASD 2011 organizers to pay tribute to one of the IFASD first two organizers in 1981, Dr. Otto Sensburg, an engineer who spent all his professional life in MBB, lately DASA, and then EADS, and who has been a member of the IFASD Programme Committee ever since. To this effect I presented a silver medal for Dr Sensburg at the 30th IFASD Anniversary Cocktail party on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. To be remembered also is the sponsoring of the European Rotorcraft Forum Cheeseman Award in the form of a dedicated plaque with both CEAS and ERF logos.

2011 was a landmark for CEAS publications: the first two issues of both the CEAS Aeronautical and Space Journals were published in the second semester along the lines of the contracts signed with Springer thanks to the hard work of our past President Joe Szodruch and our ESA representative Constantinos Stavrinidis. The four issues of the CEAS bulletin were again distributed on time under the remarkable management of our Editor-in-Chief Jean-Pierre Sanfourche: distributed to representatives of the European Commission, European Parliament, European professional organisations, research establishments and industry, it is an excellent promotional vehicle for both CEAS and indeed European aerospace. And finally the website [www.ceas.org](http://www.ceas.org) was diligently renovated by our Director General Mercedes Oliver who also regularly updates the information it contains.

AIAA is our major international partner and we invited Mr Klaus Dannenberg, Deputy Executive Director and Chief Strategy Officer of the AIAA, to join our June Board meeting in Paris to further discuss updating of our agreement with them concerning the organization in Europe of our joint conferences like the AIAA - CEAS Aeroacoustics Conference organized every three years in a European city by the CEAS ASC (Aeroacoustics Specialists Committee).

In conclusion I think we all should be proud of what we achieved in 2011. I am very glad we managed to conduct the brainstorming session I advocated in March in order to elaborate a strategic plan, since we now have concrete action lines along which we will work. We also are well geared in terms of communications with the Bulletin, the two journals, the website and the CPMIS tool. All this, as well as our successful conferences and participation in the ECAero programme, should help increase the visibility and image of CEAS, build a trustworthy relationship with the European Commission, contribute to attracting students and young professionals, and in turn benefit aerospace and our members. The excellent European team spirit which animates us allows me to hope that we shall realize some outstanding achievements in the coming months.

Pierre BESCOND

President of CEAS in 2011

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