

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have the honour of presenting the 2004 Euromaintenance Incentive Award. I had the idea of this award, when I was President in the biennium 1988-1989 and it was confirmed by the Council in 1988. So this award became an integral part of our institutional assets, that find their maximum expression in the European Council Meetings, in the Executive Committee, today named General Assembly and Board of Directors since adopting a legal status in 2003, in the Chairman, an essential operative function and in the President, who is the honorary representative of the Association. Then we have the Euromaintenance with its cultural task and its exhibitions and last but not least the Euromaintenance Award.

These are our institutional aspects. Our specific activities, executed to materialize our mission, are several Working Groups and projects. Information about these matters has been presented to you by our Chairman just a few minutes ago.

What I want to point out is that this award had an evolution in the years: at the beginning it was an award for an Institute, a Board or a person, that had given their contribution to the maintenance development. Or, as we like to say: "To the art and science of maintenance" Then we made some modifications, since there was the risk of prizing a company or an elderly man, who devoted all his life to the maintenance. This was right, because the companies that develop maintenance products and processes are a very important support to our activity and the men, who devoted their lifetime to the maintenance, had with the Euromaintenance Award a right recognition.

But in the course of the years we preferred to evolve: the first target was to modify the kind of people to be chosen: in particular, it should be a private person and in full activity, so that the award could be a further incentive for his activity. We did not fix an age limit, because this is always restrictive, but we fixed the concept that the person should not be a pensioner and should be still in activity.

The second point concerns the National Societies that are the first and principal juries. When a National Society decides that Mr. X is a national candidate, the European jury have only to weigh the credits and to evaluate the contribution given by this person to the maintenance development in his country and also in Europe. In other words: select the best from among the good. Or to say it in a more classic way: find the Primus Inter Paris.

This is a basic principle, therefore those who have not won the European award, have won the national award and national recognition, and will receive a Nomination. It is well different from the Academy Awards in Los Angeles, where the actors have the Nomination, but only one of them wins and the other ones lose. Here with the national Nomination all people have already won.

This is very important, since I would like that for the next Euromaintenance Award each and every country nominates its candidate.

We want to present each national President, who proposed a candidate, with a golden pen as a souvenir of this meeting; this gift is not an incentive, but a right recognition and in particular a stimulus to have for Euromaintenance 2006 a candidates from all the countries.

I want to say a special thankyou to the European jury, in particular to Arjo Klijn, who had a very important role as General Secretary and to Dariusz Mazurkiewicz, who evaluated the credits.

At this point in time I want to inform you about the conclusions of the jury. It was not an easy task. We received five nominations, five very worthy nominations and we had to find the best one to select as the recipient of the 2004 Award.

To go back to my earlier mention of the Academy Award, I like to say: And the winner is!!

KENNETH O'REILLY

of Ireland, nominated by the Irish National Maintenance Society MEETA.

Ken basically is a maintainer in the broadest sense. He is a co-founder of MEETA and was its first National Co-ordinator. He was, and is, active in the organisation of many MEETA activities and conferences. From the application of computers to multi-skilling. He is the driving force behind the high number of EFNMS recognized Maintenance Experts in Ireland.

On European scale he is active in the EUREKA MAINE, and other projects. He was invited by the European Commission to undertake R&D projects for the improvement of reliability and availability of machinery for foundries and sawmills. This was followed by similar projects for the railway infrastructure. The results of his endeavours have found application all over Europe.

He has presented a number of papers, for EFNMS and other conferences. He lectures, in Irish and in French universities on maintenance topics. I could fill another half hour, but I want to give Ken his chance to tell it to you by himself.

I invite Kenneth O'Reilly on the stage to receive his Award and to present himself to you as the 2004 EUROMAINTENANCE INCENTIVE AWARD winner.