

SPEECH ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE
2006 EUROMAINTENANCE INCENTIVE AWARD

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to have the honour, here in this beautiful Conference Hall in Basel, to present the 2006 Euromaintenance Incentive Award. The initiative for this award was taken by me when I was President in the period 1988-1989 and it was confirmed by the Council in 1988. This award became an integral part of EFNMS's institutional assets, that find their maximum expression in the meetings of the General Assembly and the Board of Directors since the creation of the legal status of a Non-Profit Association under Belgian law 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 Euro-maintenance Conference and Exhibition with its cultural task and its exhibitions and last but not least the Euromaintenance Incentive Award.

These are EFNMS's institutional aspects. The specific activities, executed to materialize the mission, by several Working Groups and projects, will be presented to you by the Chairman at some other time.

I want at this point to express that this award had an evolution in the years: originally 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 it showed that we were 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 change the criteria for the people to be chosen: in principle they should be private persons and in full activity, so that the award could be a further incentive for their 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.

But there was one more change! The Award traditionally has been supported by me as a person. I thought it better to create a foundation for that purpose in order to secure continuity for the activity. After a discussion with the EFNMS Board of Directors and with the General Assembly, the Salvetti Foundation was established November 24, 2005. A Non-Profit Association under German law, with its seat in Iserlohn (Germany). A Board of Directors was formed with me as the President, Mr. Klijn, former chairman of EFNMS as its General Secretary and prof. Tschuschke as its treasurer. A so called "extended board" was created with representatives of five European countries, each well known in EFNMS and each have earned his credits in the maintenance world: Ivo Čala from Croatia, Kaj Grönroos from Finland, Aleramo Lucifredi from Italy, Dariusz Mazurkiewicz from Poland, and Claude Pichot from France. This foundation, in close cooperation with the EFNMS Board of Directors, now takes the responsibility for the selection of the winner and for the presentation of the award.

An important consideration concerns the National Societies: they 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 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 Pares.

This is a basic principle, therefore those who have not won the European award, have won the national award and national recognition, and have received 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 Incentive Award each and every country nominates its candidate.

I want to say a special thank you to the European jury, Hans Overgaard from Denmark and Bryarlie Dear from France, and in particular to Arjo Klijn, who had a very important role as General Secretary.

At this point in time I want to inform you about the conclusions of the jury. It was not an easy task. We received three nominations, three very worthy nominations and we had to find the best one to select as the recipient of the 2006 Award.

But before I announce you the winner of the 2006 Award, I like to call on the stage, and I remain in my role with the Academy Awards, the "Runners Up", mr. Rolf Peter Westhues of Germany and mr. Daniel Vandendaul of Belgium. They were nominated by GFIN and BEMAS respectively. They have earned a certificate as nominees and runners up in this competition.

Mr. Westhues is associated with the well-known company SAP. In that Company he has played, and in fact still plays, a leading role in the development of maintenance support software. It is thanks to his activities that maintenance has been able to earn its place in the management theater. He is a great supporter of German maintenance standardization and of the German EFNMS activities.

Mr. Vandendaul is maintenance and engineering manager at the Baxter production plant in Lessines (Belgium). He has played a key role in the development of maintenance practices bringing his department recognition as world class and being the benchmark for Baxter worldwide.

*Messrs Westhues and Vandendaul step forward to receive
their certificates and return to their seats.*

And at this point in time I like to say: the winner is!!

FRANCISCO JAVIER GONZÁLEZ FERNÁNDEZ

nominated by the Spanish National Maintenance Society AEM

Mr. Fernández is a maintainer and teacher pur-sang.. He has degrees in Industrial Engineering, Technical Management and Production and holds a PhD in Industrial Engineering. From 1981 he is active with the Madrid Metro, starting as a designer, he presently is the Director of Engineering, maintenance R+D of Rolling Stock and Installations. He is responsible for 1300 people, including 200 qualified engineers. His annual operating budget runs to 80 million Euro, with an additional investment budget of 89 million. He is the author and co-author of numerous books on theoretical and practical aspects of industrial maintenance, maintenance management, on railroads in general and the Madrid Metro in particular.

Apart from presentations in congresses, seminars and technical meetings for AEM, he participated in Latin American congresses representing AEM. He has lectured a vast number of technical courses and seminars and he has taught a number of University courses, not only on maintenance but directed at the future and innovation of the field of maintenance.

I could make this list, and this presentation much longer, but much better than I can do that, I will ask our recipient to do that himself.

I now invite Francisco Fernández on the stage to receive his Award and to present himself to you as the 2006 EUROMAINTENANCE INCENTIVE AWARD winner.

Presentation of the Certificate and the cheque.

Now I ask your kind attention for the presentation by mr. Fernández, the recipient of the 2006 EUROMAINTENANCE INCENTIVE AWARD.