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Michel Chartron
President of ELA

A New President for ELA

Michel Chartron, 58, was designated at the General Assembly 2008 in Budapest, as President of ELA, in replacement of William Orchard. Michel is not a newcomer at European association's level. In the 90's and until 2001, Michel chaired the Technical Committee of EEA, which worked a lot on safety issues and prepared the SNEL norm EN 81-80. More recently, he was chairing the Quality, Safety, Environment & Education Committee of ELA before being designated President of the association.

Michel is a Senior Vice President of KONE Corporation and is currently located in France.

Priorities for the years to come

The lift industry has experienced a difficult period and I thank Richard Maiocchi and William Orchard for having successfully steered the association through dire straits. The page is now turned and I would like to take this opportunity to define the priorities, as I see them for the years to come. I think the association should concentrate on a programme for the coming decade. We are in a Union of 27 countries, with so many legislations and 22 languages spoken. We are involved in tasks which demand long delays to be implemented and it is often only in retrospect that you realize the efficiency of programmes over 5 to 10 years. It is not easy to push forward, but the dynamics of our actions and their rightfulness will bear fruit.

The success of the safety norm for existing lifts EN 81-80 is a good example of it. Nine countries have legislated or modified their existing laws to take safety

of existing lifts into consideration and push for safety improvements. Others will follow. The work is not completed but the SNEL application is on track.

The priorities that I see for the decade we are entering are self-evident:

- **Sustainable development** with its economic, social and environmental aspects has become an unquestioned priority for enterprises the world over. Urban development, Energy-Efficient Buildings, Accessibility for All, Ageing of the population, Improved Safety and Strong Security, all these trends will require innovative solutions from the Lift Industry. These solutions will include not only new products but also new services. The social and beneficial role of our products and services will grow and be fully recognized.

- **Globalisation** is the most evident evolutionary trend in human activities in



the XXIst century. The planet is finally becoming one. This is not an easy route. There will be hiccups and difficulties ahead, but the lift industry must prepare to serve one world in the same safe way. The most evident effort to make is in standardization. Norms must beacon our progress and the main families of standards must ultimately merge into a family of global standards, avoiding multiple certifications for products that must ultimately carry the same safety level: the best possible. The EN European family of lift standards has been adopted by some 80% of the world, including China. Next to the European standards, are the American and Japanese ones, but we are active – and I dare say – leading in the effort undertaken to create a Global Technical Barrier-Free Trade for our industry. This will serve all the companies in our sector, large and small as well as components manufacturers. It will also make lifts safer the world over. We will communicate on that in the near future.

- Human Resources are essential to our development, from Research & Development of new creative solutions to repair and maintenance of the installed stock. With the dwindling work force on a

“greying” continent, we absolutely need to recruit the best and promote careers in our industry to younger generations. Our companies, large and small, can mutually benefit from establishing the same basic curriculum requests for lift technicians, promoting lift technicians’ diplomas and “on the job” training systems. The opening of borders to workers from all EU countries and from outside Europe makes it necessary, if only for the safety of work on building sites. ELA intends to progress in that direction.

These are our priorities. They have been approved by the ELA Board. Our Committees and work groups will work on them. I see my task as that of being the prime support and mover of this undertaking. I will regularly consult our members to check that ELA works on the right track.

**Michel Chartron
President of ELA**





The ELA 2008 AWARD goes to AssoAscensori

The ELA annual prize, given to the association that has outperformed the work carried by our 22 member associations in the year before, was given this year for the second time to the Italian association, AssoAscensori. Mr. Lupo, the President of the association received the prize for the remarkable increase in importance of the associations, with two main new members and a third medium-size company joining the association. AssoAscensori also managed to organize a joint approach of the transalpine government, with the other lift associations present in the country. The new legislation on the safety of existing lifts, of which the application had been suspended, will be re-launched. Globally, the AssoAscensori experts have also participated very efficiently to the ELA committees and work groups in 2007. Congratulations to our transalpine colleagues, for getting the ELA prize for a second time!



The Italian association receives its prize from the hands of William Orchard, former President of ELA: from left to right, Silvia Migliavacca, Secretary General AssoAscensori, William Orchard, Giuseppe Lupo, President AssoAscensori and Gelsomino Volpe

A new Chairman for the Quality, Safety, Environment & Education Committee



With the departure of Michel Chartron, the QSEE needed a new Chairman. He is Juha Mennander. Juha is a Finn, speaking Swedish and presently head of the Swedish operations of Kone, after having led their Canadian operations. Juha confirmed the agenda of the Committee, which is presently working on an educational benchmark for lift technicians across Europe, on energy issues with its Energy & Ecology Work Group, and on safety for workers with a newly formed WG headed by Arpad Fazekas.

A new Work Group: Safety at work

The new work group led by Arpad Fazekas assesses the areas of work, where lift mechanics are most at risk and prepares recommendations to improve working conditions. A specific case is single-man work, which must be made perfectly safe with harnesses, retractable lanyards, and "dead-man" electronic devices, which call the call-center when the mechanic has remained still for too long. It is noted that

working at two, can be dangerous in many instances, when errors in communication are committed or there is a misunderstanding between the mechanics. The new WG reports to the Quality, Safety, Environment & Education Committee.



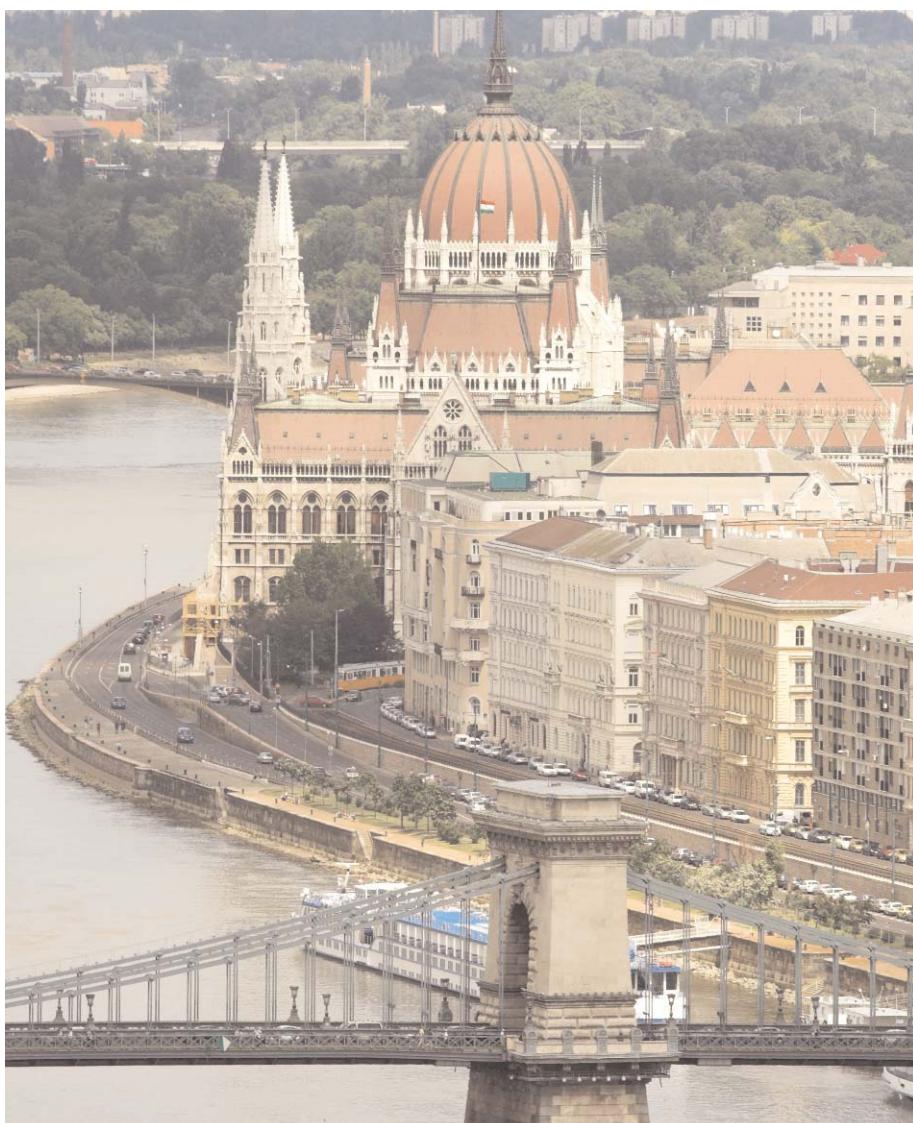


2008 General assembly in Budapest

It was the first time in a long period that the European Lift Association left Brussels to hold its annual general assembly. This year, the intention was to show a special interest for the Central European new member states and their specific problems. The capital of Hungary was the

ideal location and the meeting was well attended by a record number of delegates from all over Europe and its periphery. The Conference traditionally held on that day had as theme "modernisation in the XXIst century". William Orchard, President of ELA, set the scene by stressing the

importance of the existing lift stock in Europe, compared to other continents. Europe actually represents 51% of the world lift stock, which makes the issue of safety and modernisation all the more acute. He also introduced the main economic figures for the new Central



European member states, which have clearly fulfilled the convergence expectations of the European Commission since accession, in terms of growth and increase of GDP. The speakers were then Michel Chartron for France and Peter Günther for Germany (replacing Albert Schenk), who presented the different approaches chosen by these two large lift markets in Europe, for the modernisation of the market and the answer to the pressing issue of improving safety of existing lifts. After that, Marek Oppeln-Bronikowski, from the Polish lift association's board, presented the same subject: modernization in the main Central European countries, the safety issues that the new member states are



Three of the speakers answering questions:
from left to right: Michel Chartron, the new
President of ELA, Peter Günther, Secretary
General VDMA-Lifts and Marek Oppeln-
Bronikowski, from the Polish lift association



The European Commission
was represented by
Joaquin Calvo Basaran,
from DG Enterprise



Jorge Ligüerre,
President of EEA
was also in
attendance as
well as many
EEA and ELA
experts



A Russian lift industry delegation was welcome, in view of the on-going revision of CEN norm EN 81-1/2. Russia is a member of CEN.
From left to right: Luc Rivet, General Secretary of ELA, Yuri Radin and Lev Volf-Tropp from Russia, Christian de Mas Latrie, head of ISO TC
178 and Esfandiar Gharibaan, President of CEN TC10



Kornel Apatini, Secretary General
and Zoltan Gneith,
President of the Hungarian association,
hosting the conference

faced with and the differences between Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. The lift stock is different and several more specific risks to old elevators of Russian concept had to be added to the 74 SNEL risks.

The bad state of repair of lifts in some areas, where social housing has given place to new ownership, but with very little money to invest in safety improvements is an issue

that needs to be tackled for Central Europe.

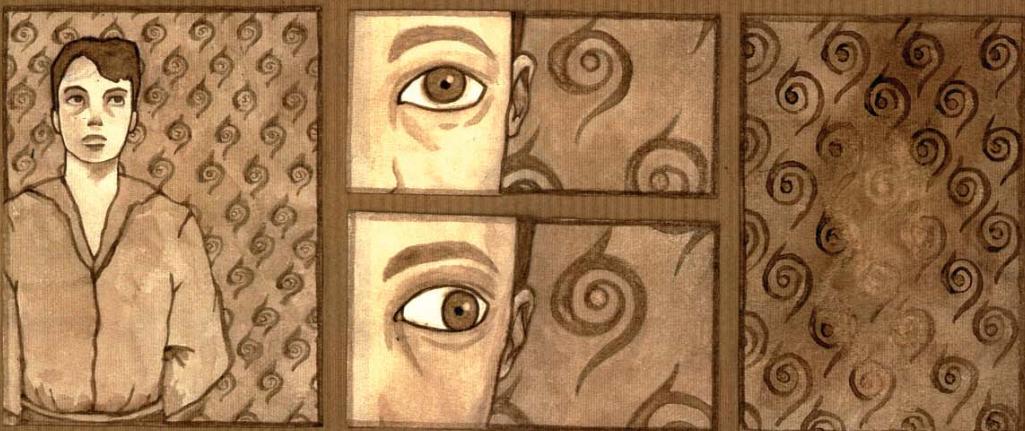
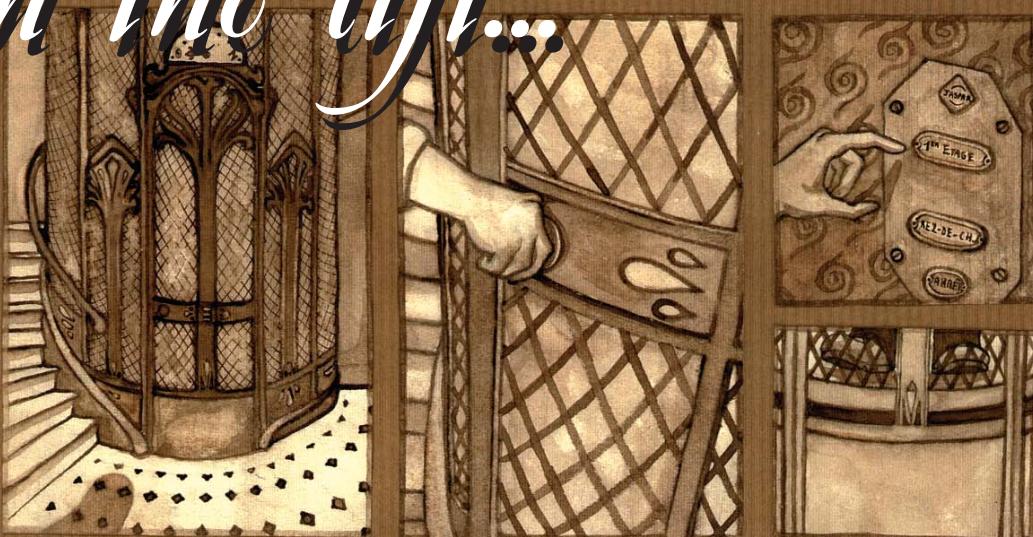
The recent economic difficulties in Hungary were also evoked, but considered temporary.

At dinner, on the Buda, hill side of town, the participants heard a speech by the Chief architect of the Hungarian state, on the state of the built environment in Hungary and the perspectives in renovation and construction.

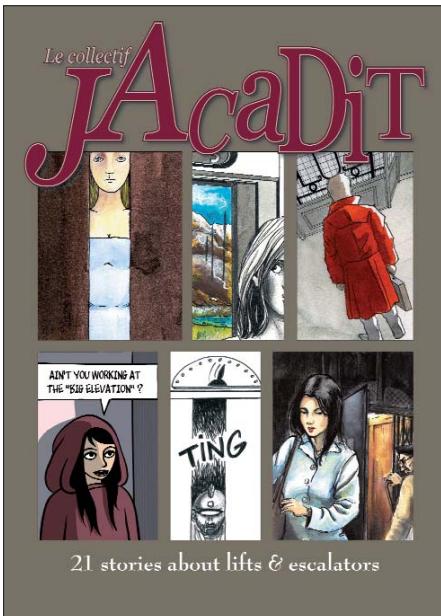
Cartoons by Zack's students



In the lift...



Marie-France Jéhelmann



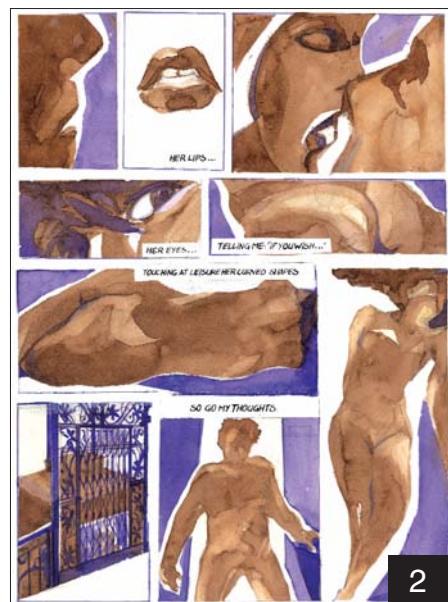
The image projected by our European association over the last decade has been largely that of the cartoons illustrating lift situations, good and bad. These cartoons are the work of a Belgian artist, Jacques Vandenheede, who signs his work as Zack. He has worked for the European associations since the early 90's, for more than 10 years and his work, illustrating among others, the safety risks of existing lifts and the ways to solve them have been used by all our member associations and by their member companies over the years in presentations, brochures, etc. A good cartoon illustrates an issue much better than long explanations. Even Minister Gilles de Robien, introduced his press conference announcing the new French legislation in 2003, with Zack drawings.

Zack is also an art teacher at the Brussels Art Academy of Ixelles, and gives the cartoons & comic strips art courses, a Belgian speciality. We have asked his 21 students to conceive and draw a short comic strip that would be linked to a lift. The results are striking. Lifts have clearly inspired them: they lead you into their imaginary world. The floors they serve are poetic, fantastic, humoristic, erotic. Board their lift and you will be transported.

ELA sponsored their exhibition in the foyer of the hotel where the General Assembly and conference were held. We also asked our delegates to pick up the 3 cartoons that they preferred and their choice for best cartoon goes to the work of Marie-France Jéhelmann, a young lady, whose sepia brown drawings of an erotic adventure taking place in a historical lift from the early XXth century, caught the eye of our mostly male audience... Would you blame them?

Second place goes to Stuart Shelley and third to Claudine Février. The ELA "heartbeat" prize goes to Sara Lison for revisiting Alice in Wonderland... by lift.

Our conclusion, since the quality of all exhibitors' stories made it difficult to make choices, is "Winners All!"



1. Stuart Shelley
2. Claudine Février





EP Conference on Ageing

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Focus

As Europe ages - how can we tackle its demographic decline?

Remedies for an ageing Europe's discussed by MEPs

The state of Europe's population was at issue again on Wednesday 28 May when MEPs from the Employment Committee met with experts to discuss the situation. The role of immigration, the need for generations to work together and health issues were among the topics discussed. The possible impact of Turkey's future membership of the EU - with its large and growing population - was also debated.

MEPs heard from leading demographic expert François Héran who presented a study from the Paris based "Institut national d'études démographiques". He said that "several research studies show that the Member States which currently have the highest fertility rates are those which have been able to develop policies concerning child support and reconciling family and professional life".

Immigration can renew population - report



Above average: 1.5 children per couple is the European norm

G. Meunier, from the French association and L. Rivet attended the conference organized by the European Parliament Liaison Committee for Social Housing on "social housing and greying Europe", chaired by French Eurogroup MEP Jean-Marie Beaupuy. At current trends the average age of people in the European Union will be 49 years by 2050. Combining this with a low birth-rate means serious long term implications. It

could lead to lower tax receipts as fewer people are of working age and increasing health and accessibility costs for an ageing population. Though nothing much is on the horizon yet in terms of decision-taking, the issue of greying Europe and of its impact on the habitat is becoming more acute. The clock is ticking. Our cities will have to be made much more accessible for the growing number of citizens with access difficulties. People

with disabilities are only the vanguard of us all. The sociological change that it will represent for our societies is not measured yet with its full impact. The lift industry must better participate to the information of our political deciders and make this topic a priority.



Elevcon 2008

The 2008 edition of ELEVCON, the international congress on vertical transportation, took place this year from June 11 to June 13 in the bustling Greek city of Thessaloniki. The Congress was hosted by Kleemann, the well-known firm based in Thessaloniki. As usual, the numerous technical presentations were very interesting. Several speakers presented work on injuries and accidents. Let's mention the presentation of David Cooper on escalator risks, based on an interesting compilation of 330 accidents and incidents over 20 years. These corroborate the work done by the SNEE workgroup, which has prepared the Safety Norm for Existing Escalators, in preparation at CEN.



Interesting to note is that male victims represent 77% of these accidents. This gender difference is mainly due to risks taken by irresponsible youngsters, unfortunately all males. Traffic simulation, new technologies, PESSRAL were among the subjects presented. Our colleague Sefa Targit, President of AYSAD, Turkey, presented an investigation of stresses on guide rails and safety gears. The book with all presentations can be obtained from the organizers, IAEE. (www.elevcon.com)



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