

EFNMS

Board **looking forward** to **EuroMaintenance 2021!**

The EFNMS (European Federation of National Maintenance Societies) objectives are the improvement of maintenance for the benefit of the Asset Management professionals of Europe. By the term 'maintenance' is meant the combination of all technical, administrative and managerial objectives.



Per Schjølberg, Franco Santini, David Merbecks, Cosmas Vamvalis - Foto: NVDO

Maintenance is of utmost importance for trade and commerce, for the environment, and for general health and safety. 24 European countries are already members of this European umbrella organization. One of the spearheads of the EFNMS is its bi-annual EuroMaintenance conference. This EFNMS initiative takes place every two years in a different European country and is then organized by the maintenance association active there. The purpose of EuroMaintenance is to share knowledge and to disseminate the latest technological achievements, throughout the world, in the maintenance field. In parallel, it is the best possible place for networking with other companies working on the maintenance field.

→ **Looking Back.** EFNMS Chairman Cosmas Vamvalis, representing HMS (Hellenic Maintenance Society) and Managing Director of Atlantis Engineering S.A., speaks from experience, because in 2016 he organized the international congress in Athens himself. He looks back with satisfaction. Because it was certainly not easy then to organize such an international event in the middle of the economic crisis. Nevertheless, he managed to get speakers, visitors and some exhibitors to his country. During the latest edition in Belgium, which was mainly devoted to Industry 4.0, it became clear that the maintenance sector also emerged from the crisis. There were more visitors, a full substantive program and there was an opportunity to visit the exhibition floor.

→ **Looking Forward.** "I'm looking forward for the best ever EuroMaintenance in relation to quality of presentations, showing the new trends in the maintenance field and, of course, audience!" says Vamvalis. "EuroMaintenance is the most important event for the EFNMS. I am convinced that the organization of the March 2021 edition is in excellent hands with the NVDO and its partner Rotterdam Ahoy. Not just because there are only substantive presentations from TOP level, but also because there is a lot of thought about how future maintenance in the chain of Asset Management and innovations will be shown". Vamvalis is referring to, among other things, synergy with Maintenance Next (the largest bi-annual maintenance exhibition in the Netherlands), but also to company visits that are planned, as well as top-class workshops. His boardmember Franco Santini, Past President Aiman (Italian Maintenance Association) and now CEN Chairman Technical Committee 319 Maintenance is enthusiastic as well; "I am looking forward to EuroMaintenance 2021 because we will discover interesting Progresses and Innovation of the developing area Maintenance 4.0".

According to EFNMS Boardmember Per Schjølberg (on behalf of the Norwegian Maintenance society NFV) the results that have been achieved thanks to EuroMaintenance; "To show the best in Maintenance, marketing the best speakers and the leading companies. Many companies and researchers have learned a lot on Industry 4.0, future Maintenance, deep mind analysis, Data scientist work and analytics for the future". Schjølberg looks forward to the Dutch edition in Rotterdam and is excited about new good practical examples from leading companies, an education program for industry and universities and is interested in new standards.

→ **Role and Expectations.** Vamvalis; "Industry 4.0 is now the driving force in European level. Maintenance is one of the most important components of Industry 4.0, by using all relevant technologies (e.g. Smart sensors, 5G, cloud computing, faults prediction by using machine learning). So, all these technologies keep improving every year on European, or even world-wide, level". This was already shown during the EuroMaintenance conference in Antwerp, 2018. EFNMS Vice President David Merbecks, representing WVIS (Wirtschaftsverband für Industrieservice e.V.); "EuroMaintenance provides a unique opportunity to develop a European network on Maintenance and Asset Management. The role of EFNMS Board is to coordinate its 24 members (National Maintenance Societies) to disseminate and to support its EuroMaintenance organizing member in many different ways (e.g. speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, participants)".

The expectations are clear on EuroMaintenance 2021. Vamvalis; "We are sure that Rotterdam would have at least the success of the Belgium-edition 2018. One reason is that Rotterdam has strong industry, another reason is because the Maintenance society of The Netherlands (NVDO) is very active and a third reason is because Maintenance is getting higher in the agenda of the companies in many sectors".

→ **Results.** What have the 2500 participants learned at the end of EuroMaintenance, what are they taking home? Vamvalis; "The main benefit of the participants is the knowledge of the latest achievements in the Maintenance field. On the other hand, it is a good opportunity for networking as all important bodies, world-wide, are present in EuroMaintenance at Rotterdam".

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