



# EurEta I

European Higher Engineering and Technical Professionals Association  
Europäischer Verband höherer Berufe des Ingenieurwesens und der Technik  
Association Européenne des Professions Supérieures d'Ingénieurs et de la Technique

## 2004 Annual Report of the Board to the General Assembly

EurEta continues to play an important and influential role as the pan-European professional body for higher engineering and technical professionals. 2004 saw a number of key developments which affected the Association, particularly relating to the European Union's aim further to facilitate the free movement of professionals. These developments are set out in this annual report and have been considered by the Board throughout the year in the light of EurEta's vision of being a **roof organisation of competent and pertinent organisations** for promotion, networking, lobbying like learning, development, employment, representation, recognition and free movement in the engineering profession, for various levels of engineers, strongly acting within the European and international directives .

As in previous years, the Board has worked to raise the profile of EurEta among organisations and individual engineers in order to increase the number of registrants. Individuals who, for whatever reason, are unable to register through a National Member are being encouraged to apply for registration through the International Section. Nevertheless, the Board has also understood that registration can not be the only orientation for EurEta (see below).

Further more and more especially, EurEta has understood and decided to focus its vocation activity onto the European scenario.

From the **legislative point of view**, the proposal from the European Commission for a new Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications has been much discussed and a final draft has been passed and analysed by the Council of Ministers. A final decision shall be taken by the Parliament jointly with the Council of Ministers in Spring 2005. The Directive introduces various levels of competence and the idea of common platforms between equivalent representative associations. The Directive allows also an upgrading for the engineers that acquired a strong experience and therefore competence.

From the **political point of view**, EurEta supports the introduction of a common platform for engineering, binding on all Member States of the European Union. EurEta's position and perspectives have been clearly conveyed to MEP Stefano Zappalà, which is the Rapporteur, also within the newly elected European Parliament, for the European Directive. The good and professional contacts that EurEta has with EU's parliament-leaders allows EurEta to follow very closely and support in the interest of the engineers the European decision-making process and to understand quickly what actions are to be taken. EurEta has met MEP Stefano Zappalà in its meeting in Taormina. That meeting provided an excellent and fruitful opportunity to understand the basic rationale of the EU thinking and of the Directive itself. By this occasion, EurEta has understood the necessity to focus onto new issues and with a renewed method. EurEta's way of working shall not concentrate itself only on registration but also and first of all on its capacity of influencing the EU's decision-making process.

**The political dimension** of such an organisation shall then be enhanced, aiming at having an impact on the European decision-making process and, therefore, which would then represent and defend better and more the engineers. An Advisory Committee would then focus in particular on the political issues as well as on promotion, networking and other services for its members.

The **registration dimension** of EurEta would remain and act with highest priorities for European wide registration: individual and independent single Registration Committees (per each level of representation) shall then provide the appropriate representation of each level. The Registration Committee(s) would then also be responsible for the analysis of national formations, ECTS, etc.).

By enhancing the Association's political power, by giving the possibility to various representatives of various levels to be represented and by presenting a common platform with FEANI, EurEta is strongly persuaded that many engineers and many representative and pertinent organisations of the field will have an interest to take part to work together in the benefit of engineers in the European scenario. At the same time, also leading organisations from countries which are not National Members will find a new interesting perspective to join EurEta.

EurEta will then work very closely to Members of the European Parliament and follow very closely the evolution within the EU's scenario.

With the awareness of the importance of having quickly and effectively a permanent representation of the Association in **Brussels** and after Graham Guest's decision to leave EurEta as Secretary General, EurEta has proposed to Milena Fontana to become the **Secretary General**, professionally based in Brussels. Her functions will start at the beginning of 2005. This shall allow EurEta to express its voice more often at all European levels. The Association could then be closer to the pertinent actors in Brussels.

Among the people that have contributed to a better understanding of the **new priorities** to be assumed in the next future, a special mention deserves Graham Guest, previous Secretary General, which resigned in September 2004. He has provided to the Association a constant work besides a proved experience in the formation and CPD field.

Also Brian Mott deserves EurEta's special thank. His consulting has terminated due to financial considerations. Last but not least we thank also Lennart Alfredsson, the Chairman of the Registration Committee for his great work he has done for many year for EurEta. Both Brian Mott as well as Lennart Alfredsson were selected as honorary members of EurEta.

During the year the following business meetings were held: In February the Board met at the Riga (Latvia) Technical School; in June meetings of the General Assembly, Board and Registration Committee were kindly hosted in Helsinki by the Finnish National Committee; in November the Board's meeting was held in Taormina (Sicily) with an excellent organisation provided by Raffaele Gulizia.

Links continue to be maintained with other European and **international organisations**.

Apart from FEANI these include the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI), the International Association for Continuing Engineering Education (IACEE), the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS), and the Institute of Continuing Professional Development (ICPD).

**Stronger relations** have been built with Latvia and Slovakia, which have shown a strong interest in following closer EurEta's evolution, in the perspective of becoming a member. The present Registration Committee will follow the evolution of some countries' national formations in order to confirm their possibility to join EurEta in due time. Further contacts are going to be set up or enhanced with the EU's new Eastern European Member States, as well as with the Republic of San Marino.

From the **financial point of view**, following the lesser income for the Association in the next future, a more restrictive use of the Association's resources shall get along with the decisions to be taken.

EurEta continues to operate well as a virtual organisation. All members of the Board, starting from his very dynamic and successful President, have been active in various roles in support of the Association and all National Members have been involved in various ways in the development of their countries' engineering formation systems.

Among other services to registrants is the **website** at [www.eureta.org](http://www.eureta.org), which is unceasingly updated. As in previous years National Members, National Members in Development and Supporting Members are urged to make use of the website as a platform for their policies and activities, with appropriate links to their own organisations.

Articles about EurEta continue to appear in various publications and all members are asked to publicise the Association as much as possible.

The Board remain sensitive to the varying needs of engineers in the different countries of Europe and once again they look forward to playing their part in responding to these needs in collaboration with the Association's key stakeholders - National Members, National Members in Development, and Supporting Members – as well as with other like-minded organisations.