



EUROPEAN LIFT
COMPONENTS
ASSOCIATION



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The ELCA BOARD Who is who?

Mr. Matteo Volpe (President)

[IGV S.p.A](#)

Mr. Antonio Garcia Alvear (Vice President)

[MP Ascensores](#)

Mr. Angelo Martini

(Vice President)

[GMV S.P.A.](#)

Dear Members,

We are pleased to send you the third edition of ELCA's Bulletin.

This is ELCA's biannual Newsletter.

This edition is dedicated to the Intellectual Property Rights Issue and recent review of the European Commission on the EU's innovation which recognizes the importance of a greater role for Small and Medium Enterprises in standardization.

Enjoy reading!

EDITORIAL

ELCA participates at Interlift in Germany, 13-16 October 2009

ELCA had its own booth at the International Trade Fair for Elevators, Components - Accessories taking place in Augsburg on 13-16 October 2009, together with exhibitors coming from 40 different countries.

During the exhibition, ELCA organized - in collaboration with EFESME - a successful event on 15th October focused on Regulations for Efficient Safety in the Lift Sector which featured the participation of the European Commission and more than 50 participants. Mr. Matteo Volpe, President of ELCA has spoken at the opening of the event highlighting the mission of ELCA to

Mr. Emanuele Emiliani (Treasurer)

[DMG](#)

Mr. Gerardo Schuhmacher

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Mr. Manuel Galilea - Secretary
General of ELCA

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particularly safeguard the interests of lifts components manufacturers and micro, small and medium (SMEs) lifts companies at European level and the importance of Intellectual Property Rights for all ELCA members.

In the picture, Mrs. Benedicte Lambert, Secretary of ELCA in the ELCA booth



TWO NEW MEMBERS JOINING ELCA!

As result of the communication and marketing campaign the ELCA Board has launched for the years 2008/9, despite the economic turmoil and the economic crises that affects particularly the small and medium sized industry sector, two new members have joined ELCA:

SafeLine Europe, Brussels, Belgium. The company produces emergency lift telephones and accessories, alarm receivers and fire communication system among others.

Web-site: <http://www.safeline.eu/>

SMS Sistemi e Microsistemi, Bologna, Italy. The company produces speed governors for any models of motor control, kits for the transformation of existing single-speed or two-speed motor installations, emergency devices for rope and hydraulic lifts, soft-starters to reduce startup current.

Web-site: www.sms.bo.it

Welcome on board SAFELINE and SMS Srl!

"HOT" ISSUES

ELCA successful action on Intellectual Property Rights

In occasion of Intelift Trade Fair in October and as part of the effort to defend the interests of its Members, ELCA has initiated a lobbying action towards the European Commission to raise awareness on unfair competition due to not compliance with intellectual property rights in the component elevator and lift sector. In fact, ELCA has witnessed that products copying elevator components protected by copyright, originally designed and marketed in Europe by leading component manufacturers, have been promoted in catalogues, exhibition booths and websites of companies based both in European and Asian countries such as Greece, Turkey, China and India.

As a result, a letter jointly signed with other two associations in the lift sector - EFESME and ELA - has been issued in October 2009 to the European Commission and the organizers of Interlift Trade Fair in Augsburg to support with concrete and specific actions manufacturers that comply with the principles of intellectual property rights and commit significant resources to the design and development of unique products that foster innovation and economic growth in Europe.

ELCA will continue to monitor future developments on this issue at European level and in future editions of European and International Fairs of Elevator Technology and encourage all ELCA Members to inform of any evidence of unfair competition.

Intellectual Property Rights as key to EU Innovation

The Commission's recent review of EU innovation recognizes the importance of: a greater role for SMEs, improved support for research and development, a greater role for education and the further regulation and standardization of intellectual property rights. The protection of such rights is identified as important in raising levels of excellence in education, research and innovation.

The Commission highlights its belief that the European Union's patent system is overly costly and fragmented. In response to this report, the Commission will explore the possibility of proposing a European Innovation Act to the Member States by spring 2010. This would form an important part of the European reform agenda and the updated Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs which will expire in 2010.

The emphasis on the greater protection of European intellectual property rights in the report reveals the possibility that future harmonization of such rules could be included. Such a step would provide enhanced legal protection to SMEs operating within the European Union and would improve the European Union's position as a centre of innovation in competition with the USA and Japan.

Importance of Access to Standards for SMEs

The General Assemblies of CEN and CENELEC agreed to set up a project to define the key problems faced by SMEs in influencing, accessing and using European standards, and to recommend practical solutions at each step in the process. The project report has been published in August 2009 in a report entitled "Enabling small and medium-sized enterprises to achieve greater benefit from standards and from involvement in standardization".

A key conclusion of the report is that SMEs face problems relating to standards. This situation arises from the inherent weaknesses of many SMEs, in particular their lack of strategic resources. Solutions may focus on these resources, for instance by compensating for a lack of time, money or knowledge. They may also focus on making the 'supply side' of standards and standardization more easily accessible. The third option is to focus on the role of intermediary organizations to bridge the gap between SMEs and the 'standardization world'. Trade associations, in particular, could play this role.

The report is available at <http://www.normapme.com/index.html>. ELCA is member of NORMAPME, the European Office of Crafts, Trades and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises for Standardization, since January 2009.

ELCA Technical meeting at International level

Since beginning of 2009 year, the ELCA Board has decided to reinforce ELCA presence in meetings organized by the International Organization of Standardisation (ISO) to ensure that interest of ELCA Members are taken care also at this level.

How ISO standards are affecting SMEs in Europe?

The publication of international standards such as the Global essential safety requirements (GESRs) currently discussed at ISO level would entitle any manufacturer who claims that its lifts are in compliance with those standards, to place them in any market within the World Trade Organization (WTO) Countries without the local authority.

Many of the proposed ISO standards concern precisely items where ELCA is currently obtaining the support of the European Commission for the revision of the CEN Standards for lifts. Therefore, all components manufacturers and all lift package manufacturers as well as installation and maintenance organizations are affected by these changes.

In particular the revision of EN 81 parts 1&2 introduces some changes to safety requirements for lifts that must be complied with by the manufacturers of components and complete lifts. ELCA asked a series of modifications to be adopted at the revision of EN 81-1 and EN 81-2 in order to comply with the Essential Safety Requirements and succeeded to obtain a transitional period of 18

months instead of the 6 months initially foreseen.

Events & Meetings

Recent Events

ELCA in the news!

ELCA had a one page publication in the magazine "Asociaciones" to continue its communication effort towards Spanish lift components manufacturers.

Board ELCA

The Board meeting took place on 15th October in Augsburg

Meeting ELCA with other European Associations in the Lift Sector

ELCA met with EFESME and ELA on 7th September and with EFESME on 15th October in occasion of Interlift. Collaboration on issues of common interests will continue in the future, keeping specific issues related to the lift component manufacturers within ELCA domain.

Upcoming Events

- 10-11 December 2009: International Convention on Intellectual Property and Competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs)", Rome, Italy _
- IEE EXPO 2010, 3rd International Elevator & Escalator Expo, February 3-5, 2010, Mumbai, India.

Upcoming meetings for ELCA Technical Expert and Members in 2009

- 7-8 December 2009: Machinery Working Group meeting, Brussels
- 9 December 2009: Conference Machinery in Europe "Perspectives and Challenges for the European Machinery Industry", Brussels
- CEN Standard Days in Brussels: all information on the upcoming CEN Standard Days can be found on: <http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/aboutus/standarddays/sd7.asp>

Next Board & AGM will be organized in 2010
Dates and venue to be announced soon!

Thank you for reading! Do not hesitate to contact ELCA in case you have questions.

Sincerely,
The ELCA Team

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