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Editorial

Why EFCA has become my love ?

by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, outgoing president of EFCA

In Polish language „Ewka” (pronounce EFCA) means in diminutive Eve, just a name in English. In general, Polish Eves are nice, intelligent and sensitive.

Needless to write that we, first boys then men, run after “Ewkas” and fall easily in love with them.

Finally, many are saying EFCA I love you.

And it has happened quite late to me, and not in my private life but in the professional one.

Particularly, when I got quite a lot of managerial responsibility for EFCA, beginning as Vice-president in Berlin in 2016, and one year later as its President in Primosten (Croatia). During the COVID era in 2020 my mandate as President was renewed for another three years by televoting.

But this „honey period” finally came to its end, quite recently in Dubrovnik (Croatia), exactly on 19th of September 2023. This day we had our Assembly, at which I passed the „power” with pleasure to my successor and favourite Gordana, so far my deputy. PhD Gordana Pehnek is well recognized Croatian scientist, Head of the Division of Environmental Hygiene at the Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health in Zagreb and works mostly on the impacts of air pollution on our health (see her CV on the website). And now a good question: why EFCA has become my love?

First, during my service in the organization, I met many persons characterised by high job performance and unquestionable work ethics and easy in communication. Needless to add that they had also a crystal-clear character, were kind, open and joyful and radiated around positively. In one

phrase, they supported me in my duties and made my work easier and a pleasant one.

Second, EFCA as civil society body, worked on voluntary agreement of its members always finding a consensus on current matters and incoming challenges. So did its staff, in particular the Executive Committee and the German Secretariat. The commitment without stress and money, of course. What a difference if compared to any administration or corporation.

Third, most of work has been done at home, let's say in „pyjama“ with coffee at hand, except my regular visits to PIGE, the Polish Chamber for Sustainable Development, confederated with EFCA or to the secretariat in Pfingsttal, just to know its faces. But it happened that I had also missions abroad. For example, to prepare and service our UfP Symposia, held regularly in Brussels, to organize and conduct EFCA session at biannual CAPPA AIR PROTECTION conferences in Croatia or to follow the development under the UNECE Air Convention in Geneva. But I also had an honour to represent EFCA at global events like the World Clean Air Congress in Istanbul in 2019 or quite recently at the World Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability in Rome last October. In both cases EFCA representatives, promoted the integration of action for cleaner air and climate protection framed by ONE ATMOSPHERE approach. All mission at any stage gave me a lot of satisfaction, except one last June to Delft (Netherlands), where I paid tribute to our friend, iconic Staff of EFCA, Joop Van Ham, who passed away. Anyhow a very memorable event spent with the company of his closest family.

Finally, I liked very much to write editorials to our Newsletters, edited and published quarterly, if possible. This has become a quite difficult intellectual challenge, but very much rewarding as giving EFCA a visibility and voice on different matters or topic. I remember one title „Coal as a Christmas gift“ some time ago to sum up the output of COP-25 under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Today if I wouldn't write the farewell editorial, I would title a normal

one „Gas and Petrol as a Christmas gift“ to echo the output of last COP-28, held just two weeks ago in Dubai (United Arab Emirates).

To end, it's a proper time to say „THANK YOU“ in capitals, to recent Executive Committee, Gordana, John and Thomas as well as to Sabine and Ute from our secretariat for effective and fruitful cooperation and for keeping alive our Newsletter. Also my thanks go to Flemming for refreshing and updating our website. I would also like to pass my gratitude to our global colleagues from IUPPA, mainly to Richie and Selahattin for extending our continental perspective and valuable exchange of information.

Another year is coming to its end. Then it's also time to wish you „Merry Christmas and Happy New Year“ or transmit to you my best season's greetings.



News from EFCA

2nd World Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability

by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, outgoing president of EFCA

Two EFCA representatives, Andrzej Jagusiewicz and Thomas Reichert, both past President attended the 2nd World Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability held in Rome (Italy) from 16-18 of October 2023.

At the opening session during the Keynote Forum, Andrzej Jagusiewicz presented on behalf of the two, EFCA work on integrating action for cleaner air and climate protection with focus on ultrafine particles. In the same presentation, he provided a state of play in relation to the ongoing work on the revision of the Amended Gothenburg Protocol under the Air Convention.



Andrzej Jagusiewicz and Thomas Reichert at the 2nd World Conference on Climate Change and Sustainability

Among the conclusions, it was clearly said that the Air Convention should become a global treaty like UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) leaving to the UN regions freedom to elaborate region-specific control instruments (full text has been posted on EFCA website). For this presentation, EFCA got a certificate of recognition for phenomenal and honourable work.



Certificate for the EFCA work

Then, in the afternoon, Andrzej Jagusiewicz, had the honour to chair the session on Sustainability and Climate Change devoted *inter alia* to agroeco-systems, ocean sustainability, spherical economy, and coal footprint in the construction sector.

On the second day, the poster session was held, where Andrzej Jagusiewicz was the poster judge,

while Thomas Reichert on behalf of Fraunhofer, presented a poster on „The emissions of the manufacturing sector based on global market data and its potential derivation”.

According to the following criteria: oral presentation, format and importance to the title of the conference, the judge chose the podium.

The winner was Pascal Compass, from the National Centre for Scientific Research from Angola. In his poster he assessed the impact of transboundary pollution, including dust from volcano eruption from neighbouring Congo on five Angolan cities. The pollution mix included of course UfPs and organic aerosols.

The second place was attributed to Tosio Afeniforo from Scuola Universitaria Superiore from Pavia (Italy) for presenting potential threats to marine life and human health from microplastics diverted to oceans and seas.

And the podium completed Thomas, bravo Fraunhofer, bravo EFCA treasurer.

The conference was attended by more than hundred participants representing regional administration, academia, business and NGOs from five continents (Asia, Australia, Europa, Latin America and North America).

“AIR PROTECTION 2023”; INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND 13th CROATIAN SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEETING

by Gordana Pehnec (gpehnec@imi.hr), president elect of EFCA; CAPPa, Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health, Zagreb, Croatia

On the 50th anniversary of organized activities in the field of air protection in Croatia and the 30th anniversary of the Croatian Air Pollution Prevention Association (CAPPa), in cooperation with EFCA, CAPPa organized an international conference together with the 13th national “Air Protection” scientific and professional meeting. The other co-organizers were: the International Union of Air

Pollution Prevention and Environmental Protection Associations (IUAPPA), Institute for Medical Research and Occupational Health from Croatia and Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service. The Conference was organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and Ministry of Science and Education of the Republic of Croatia and was held in the Astarea hotel in Mlini near Dubrovnik.



Opening of the conference

“Air Protection 2023” gathered more than 160 participants from Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, and Turkey. Scientists and experts presented their work through 82 presentations (44 oral and 38 poster presentations) on the following topics:

- 1) Air quality management
- 2) Air pollution sources and emissions
- 3) Ambient Air pollution monitoring
- 4) Machine learning and air quality modelling
- 5) Developing and testing measuring methods
- 6) Health impacts of air pollution
- 7) Indoor air quality, energy efficiency, and healthy buildings
- 8) Climate and Environmental impacts of air pollution

During the “Air Protection 2023” conference, there were three special events: the EFCA session “New regime on air protection in Europe”, the IUAPPA session entitled “Air quality strategies for liveable cities in a changing climate”, as well as the panel discussion and workshop “A spotlight on indoor air quality – the EDIAQI project”.

A special EFCA session was organized during the Conference for the sixth time, and included four presentations: *New air protection regime under the Air Convention* held by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, *Guidance document on technical measures for*

reduction of emissions from shipping” (CLRTAP) presented by Nadine Allemand, *Current air quality legislation and new World Health Organization guidelines – impact on air quality assessment in Zagreb, Croatia* presented by Gordana Pehnec, and *The effect of size distribution metrics of aerosol components on the inhaled deposited dose. A case study in urban areas at Lisbon* presented by Konstantinos Eleftheriadis.

In conjunction with the “Air Protection 2023” conference, the 34th EFCA General Assembly Meeting was held on 19th September 2023. The meeting was organized in hybrid mode. As the second term of EFCA president Andrzej Jagusiewicz from Polish Association PIGE ended, Gordana Pehnec from CAPP, who was elected vice-president of EFCA in 2021, was now elected unanimously for the new president of the EFCA.



The new EFCA president Gordana Pehnec thanked the outgoing president Andrzej Jagusiewicz for his work

The EFCA Assembly, as well as the newly elected president Gordana Pehnec, thanked Andrzej Jagusiewicz for his dedicated work and outstanding contribution to EFCA over the past two terms.

This year, for the third time, a special IUAPPA session was organized during the Conference, and included three presentations as *Potential impacts on air pollutants from future regional climate projections* by Selahattin Incecik, *Integrated assessment of air pollution and climate change for sustainable development in Africa-towards “the Africa we want”* by Hanlie Liebenberg-Enslin and Kevin Hicks, and *Latin America perspective” & “Challenges and opportunities for cities in the global south based on WRI work* by Beatriz Cardenas (from Mexico city virtually).

A round table discussion on the last day of the “Air Protection 2023” was held as a conclusion of all topics of the Conference. The conclusions and discussion of this Round Table, as well as detailed report from the Conference will be published in the journal *Archives of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology* <https://hrcak.srce.hr/aiht?lang=en>

An abstract book (ed. G. Pehnec) containing presentation abstracts in English, was distributed to the participants along with other materials. The Book of Abstracts can be found at the CAPPA web-page:

http://huzz.hr/Zbornik/Zbornik_sazetaka_za_web.pdf

The “Air Protection 2023” conference would not be possible without the great effort of the Scientific and Organizing Committee members as well as the Advisory Board members. CAPPA is particularly grateful to all of the co-organizers and Conference sponsors.

measurement technology, e.g. for particulate matter or mercury, to the acquisition and provision of plant data for support of the BAT (Best Available Techniques) process in Seville, as well as meteorological measurements and dispersion modelling, up to environmental medical assessment and measurement of bioaerosols, and the requirements for mobility management manager.

More than 1,200 honorary experts from business, science and administration are currently active in about 170 working groups in the preparation of VDI standards and DIN standards of the KRdL. Nearly 30 national and international standardisation projects were discussed and approved in 2023 in the four expert advisory boards of the KRdL. Among the new publications in 2023 were the draft of VDI 3786 Part 24, which shows how the masses of meteorological data available can be optimally used by means of crowdsourcing, and VDI 3464 Part 1, which describes measures to reduce emissions during the production and storage of wood pellets by consumers. It helps to make the handling of wood pellets safe. There were further successes in 2023 in CEN/TC 264 "Air Quality" in the mandate work for the European Commission. In WG 1, with financial support from EC/EFTA, CEN/TS 1948-05 on long-term PCB sampling in emissions is being transferred into a European Standard based on existing validation work. The work is directly related to the EU Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

How the challenges of the reform of EU emissions trading are to be tackled in concrete terms and what effects this will have on the affected industries was subject of the VDI expert forum "Emissions Trading 2023", which was organized by KRdL Division I together with VDI-Wissensform GmbH on 12th October 2023 in Düsseldorf. At the KRdL workshop "Biomonitoring for the future", which took place on 12th October 2023 in cooperation with LANUV NRW in Duisburg, over 70 participants discussed the latest scientific findings and the changing challenges of environmental and health protection for the continuous adaptation or new development of biomonitoring methods. The

News from EFCA Members



Activities of the VDI/DIN Commission on Air Pollution Prevention (KRdL) 2023/2024

by Rudolf Neuroth, director VDI/DIN-Kommission Reinhaltung der Luft (KRdL) – standards committee

In 2023, the VDI/DIN Commission on Air Pollution Prevention (KRdL) - Standards Committee published more than 60 new Technical Rules to keep "fit" the VDI/DIN Handbook "Air Pollution Prevention" for answering the current questions of air pollution prevention.

The six volumes of the VDI/DIN Handbook "Air Pollution Prevention" today comprise more than 470 VDI standards and over 160 DIN standards of the KRdL and provide answers to almost all questions on the subject of "Air Pollution Prevention". The spectrum of topics ranges from

results will be incorporated into the standardization work of Department III of the KRdL.

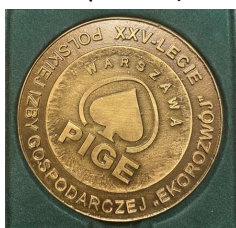
For more information on the KRdL and its standardisation activities see www.vdi.de/krdl



25th year of PIGE medal attributed to Gordana Pehnec, new EFCA President

by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, outgoing president of EFCA

On the margin of EFCA session held at CAPPA International Conference AIR PROTECTION 2023 in Dubrovnik, outgoing President Andrzej Jagusiewicz honoured the incoming President Gordana Pehnec by the medal marking 25th anniversary of the Polish Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Development (PIGE).



Medal marking 25th anniversary of the Polish Chamber of Commerce Sustainable Development

The medal was given on behalf of PIGE President, Krzysztof Zareba and was accompanied by his letter of recognition for professional achievements of new EFCA President.



Cercl'Air Newsletters

Cercl'Air publishes three newsletters per year. They contain the highlights on air pollution control in Switzerland and the cantons. Links to them you find under [Newsletter - Cercl'Air \(cerclair.ch\)](http://Newsletter - Cercl'Air (cerclair.ch))



43th Session of the Executive Body for the Convention on long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

by Andrzej Jagusiewicz, outgoing president of EFCA

The 43rd session of the Executive Body for the Convention on long-range transboundary air pollution, which took place recently (11-14 December) at Geneva, took inter alia two important decisions:

- 1) The Meteorological Synthesising Centre East (MSc-E) since 1st of January 2024 will be relocated from Moscow to Joseph Stefan Institute (JSI) in Ljubljana (Slovenia) and properly funded. The decision is in line with the General Assembly Resolution on the war in Ukraine caused by the aggressor country, Russian Federation
- 2) The process of the revision of the amended Gothenburg Protocol has been launched and will follow conclusions of the review group and the last session of the Working Group on Strategy and Review including the guidance by the session itself.

News about Air Quality



Air pollution in Europe remains well above recommended World Health Organization (WHO) levels, posing a significant threat to our health

[Air pollution levels still too high across Europe – remains top environmental health risk \(europa.eu\)](http://Air pollution levels still too high across Europe – remains top environmental health risk (europa.eu))

According to the latest European Environment Agency (EEA) air quality health assessment published, 253,000 deaths could have been avoided in the EU if the fine particulate matter

concentrations had met WHO recommendations. Exposure to air pollution causes or aggravates certain diseases like lung cancer, heart disease, asthma, and diabetes according to new estimates of health impacts.

Further measures to reduce air pollution to WHO guideline levels would prevent these 253,000 attributable deaths and would also reduce the number of people who are living with the debilitating health effects of air pollution-related diseases such as diabetes and asthma.

The EEA briefing 'Harm to human health from air pollution in Europe: burden of disease 2023' assessment presents the latest information, estimated for the year 2021, of the harm to human health caused by three key air pollutants: fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide and ozone.

Between 2005 and 2021, the number of deaths in the EU attributable to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), one of the most damaging air pollutants, fell by 41%. Still, air pollution continues to be the top environmental health risk to Europeans (followed by other factors such as exposure to noise, chemicals and the increasing effects of climate-related heatwaves on health), causing chronic illness and attributable deaths, especially in cities and urban areas.

According to the latest EEA estimates, at least 253,000 deaths in the EU in 2021 were attributable to exposure to fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) pollution above the WHO recommended concentration of 5 µg/m³. Nitrogen dioxide pollution led to 52,000 deaths and short-term exposure to ozone led to 22,000 attributable deaths in the EU. Air pollution also causes ill health and adds significant costs on health care systems. These WHO recommended concentrations are set based on the level of pollution above which there is clear evidence of associated health effects.



Return of the Better Air Quality (BAQ) conference in 2023, on 15th-17th November 2023 at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila

The Better Air Quality (BAQ) conference in 2023, on 15th-17th November 2023 at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) was held in Manila. Clean Air Asia, along with co-organizers, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (a UNEP convened initiative), presented the 11th Better Air Quality conference (BAQ) to be held on 15-17 November 2023, with pre-events on 13-14 November, at the ADB Headquarters, Manila, Philippines.

BAQ 2023 is themed Ambition to Action: Clean air for health and the climate. With a comprehensive focus on science as the basis for action, integrated solutions, and innovative financing mechanisms, the BAQ 2023 will strongly advocate for heightened ambition and enhanced action addressing the critical issues of air pollution and climate change.

Countries are progressively committing to a sustainability transition and adopting policies that will combat air pollution and climate change and usher in a new era of renewable energy generation, electric mobility, and sustainable urban development. This transition will reshape societies and create opportunities for equitable and inclusive growth. However, the challenges, particularly for developing countries, often lie in how to make the transition given technical capacity, resources, infrastructure, planning, and financing. It is essential to strengthen the ability of cities, countries, civil society organizations, industry, and academia and increase their resources to develop bankable and scalable projects to step up action, and address both air quality and climate issues. BAQ 2023 will serve as the solutions platform to bridge the transition gap and identify solutions for clean air (i.e., policies, technologies, financing, governance, partnerships) to attain co-benefits of health and safe climate in Asia.

The objectives of the BAQ 2023 conference were:

- Share knowledge and dialogue on the latest science, solutions and financing models for the transformative shifts needed
- Provide a platform for interaction focused on the practicalities of the required shifts in energy generation, industry, transportation, agriculture, waste management, and urban development
- Provide a platform for advancing key global and regional initiatives forward such as CCAC's Clean Air Flagship Program, UNESCAP-led Regional Action Programme on Air Pollution, and the Global Methane Pledge.
- Identify clean air projects and initiatives and potential sources of funding.

More information under

<https://www.ccacoalition.org/events/better-air-quality-conference-baq-2023>

Calendar



2nd meeting of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution

13 - 14 February, 2024; Geneva, Switzerland

[2nd meeting of the Task Force for International Cooperation on Air Pollution | UNECE](#)

44th session of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution

9-12 December 2024; Geneva, Switzerland



**Finnish Air Pollution
Prevention Society**

The national meeting on air pollutant and GHG measurements

15.-16.5.2024, Imatra, Finland

The national congress on air pollution prevention and climate issues

20.-21.8.2024, Lappeenranta, Finland

Finnish Air Pollution Prevention Society (FAPPS) organizes and hosts 2024:

<https://www.hsy.fi/en/>



27th ETH Nanoparticles Conference

10.-14. June 2024, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

<https://npc24.scg.ch/?idU=4>



Karlsruher Institut für Technologie



EFCA

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Ultrafine Particles - Air Quality and Climate; International Symposium 2024

3-4 July 2024, Brussels, Belgium

Representation of the State of Baden-Württemberg to the European Union

<https://efca.net>

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