

A few remarks about the ASD Annual Convention held in Prague in April 2014 and the role and voice of EASN presented in this forum

The 2014 ASD Annual Convention was held in Prague, from 23-25 April under the banner of strengthening European prosperity and competitiveness: a 4D test for policy makers and industry. During this Convention a number of plenary lectures (*Keynote speeches*) and discussion panels were organised.

EASN was invited to participate in the panel devoted to *"The 4D of Aerospace competitiveness: energy, mobility, research and skills - Debate 3: Clean Sky 2 and beyond: inclusive research towards the most energy-efficient aircraft ever"*. Among the speakers in this panel were: (1) **Eric Dautriat**, Executive Director, Clean Sky JU; (2) **Josef Kaspar**, President ALV CR, President EREA; (3) **Manuela Soares**, Director Transport, DG RTD, European Commission and (4) **Zdobyslaw Goraj**, Vice-President of EASN. The discussion was moderated by **Prof. Rolf Henke**, ACARE GA member, head of the ACARE WG5 and member of the board of DLR directors. The discussion was concentrated on Clean Sky 2 and Horizon 2020 in aspects of chances, challenges, opportunities and some risks and limits especially for academia and SMEs.

During the discussion Prof. Zdobyslaw Goraj emphasised the importance of a simple relation between a wide access of academia researchers to Clean Sky 2 projects and the quality of university graduates from one side and skills and knowledge of industry young employees and the world wide competitiveness of European Industry from the second side. He stressed that *"university graduates will determine the future of European Aerospace Industry and thus it is difficult to imagine that academia can stay outside of the biggest aeronautical research programme that Europe ever lunched"*.

Prof. Goraj pointed out that EASN and CS office have already arranged a number of mutual meetings to resolve some important issues and that EASN believes that (1) could have a role as a "core partner" in selected areas of research; (2) could participate and contribute with upstream research activities wherever this does not affect the nature of CS 2 projects and (3) could endorse a limited number of academia-led clusters – to respond to CS2 calls for core partners. The impression was that Eric Dautriat –member of this panel – had nothing against.

Prof. Z. Goraj mentioned also the difficult situation that some Central European countries such as Poland and Czech Republic face, when it comes to having access to industrial research projects. He pointed out that in such countries, whereas on the one hand a well-developed aeronautical industry exists, on the other hand, this industry is very often managed and controlled by non-European entities that prefer to use technologies developed outside of Europe and are not interested to collaborate with local academia and research centres.

Another difficulty and challenge to be solved in the future for EASN as the association follows from the fact the aerospace community do not see the universities themselves represented e.g. by their presidents, but chairs in the field of aviation. EASN is an association and network of individuals and we do not have any rich company behind. The question arises *"How can we join forces, how can we finance common activities, in which way is this binding over a longer period in time?"* Until now EASN has managed to financially sustain its activities relying on membership fees and some income generated from organising dissemination activities for several research projects. And it is also a reason we expect our proposals submitted to CS 2 will be accepted.

Prof. Rolf Henke summarised the discussion and prepared a report which was presented later on for a wider audience of the Convention where different panels were concluded and presented jointly.

Prepared by Prof Zdobyslaw Goraj – EASN Vice-President