



Dear European Acousticians,

As you probably know, the new EAA Board took over in October 2019: Manell Zakharia (President), Birgit Rasmussen (Vice-President), Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp (Vice-President), Paul Lepper (Secretary), and Belén Casla Herguedas (Treasurer).

Some of the Board Members were there at the foundation of the EAA when the long run and the sustainability of such an enterprise was questioned. After 27 years, one can realize all the achievements made and the International respectability and recognition of the EAA thanks to continuous efforts of the National Societies and the involvement of the presidents, members of the successive boards and product managers!

**In 2020, the EAA will be facing two major Challenges:**

- First challenge is a “familiar one”: we must make **Forum Acusticum 2020**, a big success, as we have always done for our previous meetings. May I remind you that the deadline for abstract submission is **DECEMBER FIRST**. We are looking forward to meeting you at our headlight event that has been proving for years its efficiency in bridging between our National Societies. <https://fa2020.universite-lyon.fr/>
- Our other main challenge is a new one for us as it is associated to a revolution in scientific publications! In January 2020, our Journal, **Acta Acustica**, will become a full open access Journal. That will make our Journal accessible all over the world. The dissemination of European publications worldwide is the key issue for our international respectability. The main change related to Open Access is that the cost of publication is transferred from the journal subscribers to the authors of articles. Being aware of this, the EAA has set up a **financial support scheme** (to pay the required Article Processing Charge), based on the solidarity principle among the National Societies. Acta Acustica submission website is now open to accept your best contributions. <https://www.editorialmanager.com/aacus/default.aspx>. Acta Acustica development will be supported in parallel with the consolidation of Acoustics in Practice. <https://euracoustics.org/activities/acoustics-in-practice>

The history of Acoustics is filled of European Pioneers and Celebrities (not enough space to name them all). Our duty is to preserve our cultural and scientific **HERITAGE**. Unifying the archives of all EAA products will increase our attractivity and visibility for both foreign acousticians and young acousticians of Europe (in complement to the efforts of the Young Acousticians Network) as well as companies (in support to National Societies).

We will be facing big challenges, but thanks to our unity, our solidarity and the continuous effort since 1992, we will be able to achieve them.

May I wish you all, on behalf of the Board a Merry Christmas and may the coming year 2020 fulfil all your personal and professional wishes.

On behalf of the EAA Board,  
Prof. Manell ZAKHARIA, President of EAA