EAPA

Magazine 55



8th E&E Congress Highlights

Discover insightful articles by session chairs, workshop summaries and how the event tackled sustainability challenges, advanced binders & more. Networking events: Boat cruise, Run for Fun ...

EAPA Latest

This year saw exciting developments: the launch of the EAPA podcast, and 5 EAPA publications including the popular Towards Net Zero document, webinars and more..

Other updates

From Committees, news from Brussels, Conference and events!





8th E&E Congress Highlights

Introduction **05**
Introduction by Secretary General EAPA 05

EAPA News **08**
The beginning of the European initiative of women in Asphalt 08
EAPA Webinar on Asphalt 4.0 10
Net Zero publication 12
Tibor Veress: our new Asphalt Advocate 14
Season 1 of The Roadcast 16
The EAPA team 18
GAPA Meeting 20

The 8th E&E Congress **23**
Breixo Gomez Reflects on a Summer of Collaboration and Innovation 23
Articles by chairs 32
Social Activities that Foster Engagement and Connection 50
Interesting social media posts 52
E&E in the media 54

Conferences and Events **56**
Asphaltica 2024 56
25th Anniversary of PSWNA 56
EAPA Committee Meetings 58
Webinar: European Paving Industries Coping with the Green Deal 64

Upcoming Conferences and Congresses **66**

EAPA Meetings and Dates **67**

Colophon **69**

List of Advertisers **69**

EAPA Members **70**



Welcome



Dear EAPA Members and Asphalt Friends,

Welcome to the 55th issue of the EAPA Magazine, the E&E Congress edition. I sincerely hope this message finds you well. This edition is dedicated to celebrating the highlights and achievements of the 8th E&E Congress held recently in Budapest, a landmark event for the asphalt and bitumen industry.

The E&E Congress brought together experts, innovators, and industry leaders from across the globe to share knowledge, discuss emerging trends, and explore the future of road infrastructure. The event saw over 750 participants from more than 50 countries. We also welcomed delegations from Japan, Australia, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, the US, and many more.

The congress featured 130 exhibitors and sponsors spread across more than 50 booths, 74 speakers in 14 sessions, and three successful workshops. It provided a platform for vibrant discussions, engaging presentations, and meaningful exchanges.

EAPA also had a booth in an extra section of the exhibition with a small stage, the so called "Associations Lounge". There we proudly presented the "EAPA Asphalt Advocate 2024" award to Tibor Veress, recognising his significant contributions to the industry. His dedication to the Asphalt Advantages Campaign and his efforts in supporting young engineers in Hungary are exemplary. Furthermore, we used the stage to finally announce the release of the "EAPA Roadmap to Net Zero".

As we look back on the success of the 8th E&E Congress, we are filled with pride and gratitude for the vibrant discussions, innovative ideas, and strong connections that were made. We hope you found the experience as enriching as we did and that it met the high standards we all expect.

Yours sincerely,
Carsten Karcher,
EAPA Secretary General

E&E CONGRESS SITE

MISSION AND VISION

Since its inception in 1973, the European Asphalt Pavement Association (EAPA) has been the definitive voice of the asphalt paving industry in Europe. EAPA's mission is to demonstrate the economic, technical, and societal benefits of asphalt paving. Its vision is for a modern, innovative asphalt industry that prioritises sustainability, safety, and environmental care, ensuring asphalt remains the preferred choice for Europe's road infrastructure.





COMMITTEES

EAPA's commitment to advancing the asphalt industry is highlighted by its specialised committees, each addressing key issues and opportunities. The Technical Committee, Health, Safety & Environment Committee, Asphalt 4.0 Committee, and Communications Committee play pivotal roles in shaping the future of the industry and ensuring the continued resilience and sustainability of asphalt solutions.



INDUSTRY ADVOCATE

Representing over 10,000 companies, EAPA is a strong advocate for small and medium-sized enterprises in the asphalt industry. It amplifies their voices at the European level, influencing policies and establishing industry standards. EAPA's active participation in standardisation committees and collaborations with global partners underscores its vital role as the industry's advocate.

PUBLICATIONS

EAPA's commitment to knowledge sharing is evident in its many publications, including technical reviews, position papers, manifestos, and guidance documents. These resources are vital for keeping stakeholders updated on industry trends, innovations, and regulations. They play a key role in enhancing the industry's reputation and influencing policy changes, thereby promoting industry growth and improving its public image.





COMMUNICATION

EAPA effectively communicates through various channels: newsletters, magazines, websites, social media, video podcasts, and live-streamed workshops, showcasing the industry's innovations, environmental initiatives and other important topics. Campaigns like Asphalt Advantages, RunnersLoveAsphalt, CyclistsLoveAsphalt, and Asphalt-Heroes, paired with inspiring stories from industry professionals, aim to engage young and future generations and also showcase the vibrant community of the asphalt industry.

EVENTS

Based in Brussels, at the heart of the European Union, EAPA actively participates in and organises a variety of industry-relevant events at both the member countries and European levels. Here, EAPA represents the European perspective, ensuring that the insights and data-driven knowledge of the European asphalt industry are heard and considered. Since 1996, in collaboration with Eurobitume, EAPA has hosted significant gatherings such as the Eurasphalt & Eurobitume (E&E) Congresses and events. These events serve as crucial platforms for stakeholders to exchange knowledge, discuss innovations, and address the challenges facing the asphalt paving industry.



European Asphalt Pavement Association

WWW.EAPA.ORG

The beginning of the European initiative of women in Asphalt

At the E&E Congress in Budapest, a pivotal workshop titled "An Opportunity to Shape How the Industry Can Better Encourage Women in Our Sector" marked a significant step towards promoting diversity and inclusion within Europe's asphalt and bitumen industries.

Audrey Copeland (NAPA) opened the session by sharing the journey of the Women of Asphalt initiative in the USA, highlighting its origins, growth and some challenges faced by women in the industry. She emphasised the critical role women play in the industry's growth and innovation. Following her, **Siobhan McKelvey (Eurobitume)** and **Carsten Karcher (EAPA)** explored how a similar initiative could be developed in Europe, with enthusiastic input from the audience. The workshop ended with a call for participants to sign up and get involved in shaping this initiative.

This initiative is supported by EAPA and Eurobitume, who are actively promoting it through their communication channels and networks. Their efforts aim to increase interest sign-ups for the initiative, build the community, and lay the foundation for its growth and success. You can **sign up** here and be involved from the start of this important initiative.

BUILDING MOMENTUM: NEXT STEPS

The **Women in Asphalt Europe Initiative** is gaining traction, and we are thrilled by the active interest from those who have signed up to stay informed. As part of our commitment to fostering a more inclusive industry, we took a significant step forward by hosting a focus group with 10 women volunteers from various backgrounds within the asphalt sector across Europe. We aim to bring together eight volunteers from diverse backgrounds within the asphalt and bitumen industry. These focus group volunteers played a crucial role in shaping the future of the initiative by providing valuable insights and engaging in topic-based discussions.

GET INVOLVED

Women and men across the European asphalt and bitumen sector are encouraged to join the movement. Men are equally important in supporting this initiative, as seen with the learnings in the successful **Women of Asphalt** organisation in the USA. The initiative is open to everyone in the asphalt industry. **Sign up** to stay informed about this or to volunteer.

A MUST-LISTEN!

Listen to **the EAPA podcast featuring Amy Miller,** the President of the Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida, and founder of **Women of Asphalt**. We explore her remarkable career and educational journey, highlighting key moments in her leadership through a series of success stories that will inspire and motivate. Learn what a day in her role as President looks like, the evolution and growth of **Women of Asphalt**, and the initiatives led by the **Asphalt Pavement Alliance**. We'll also dive into a comparison of similar organisations in the US and Europe, and discuss how to foster the growth and success of women in traditionally male-dominated industries.

Right page: Photos from the Women of Asphalt workshop at E&E Congress













EAPA Webinar on Asphalt 4.0: A Resounding Success

On 5th September 2024, the European Asphalt Pavement Association (EAPA) hosted a highly successful webinar on Asphalt 4.0, attracting around 400 participants from across Europe and beyond. Hosted by EAPA's Technical Director, Dr. Breixo Gomez, the 1.5-hour event brought together leading experts in the asphalt and transport infrastructure industry, providing insights into the digital transformation of the sector.

The webinar speakers and presentations were a selection from the **III. International Conference on Asphalt 4.0 (ICA 4.0)**, which was set to take place on **24th and 25th September 2024 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.** This event covered key themes such as Intelligent Transport Systems, E-mobility, Blockchain, Digital Twins, AI, and other cutting-edge innovations that are revolutionizing the industry.

The webinar featured **six concise presentations** from industry leaders representing six different countries, all sharing their expertise on the digital future of transport infrastructure. These presentations provided attendees with valuable insights into the most critical trends and developments shaping the industry.

Special presentations were also delivered by **Juan Jose Potti, Executive President of ASEFMA** and **Slovenko Henigman**, President of ZAS and Vice President of EAPA, who gave an introduction to the **ICA 4.0** event and shared the event's objectives, underscoring the importance of knowledge-sharing in this rapidly evolving field. Additionally, Henigman announced the **exclusive 10% discount** on tickets to the **ICA 4.0 conference** in Slovenia to all registered EAPA webinar attendees. This offer provided attendees the opportunity to dive deeper into the topics discussed during the webinar, either in person or online, at the **ICA 4.0 event.**

A LIVELY, ENGAGED AUDIENCE

One of the key highlights of the webinar was the **active participation** of the audience. With over **400 registered registrations within 2 weeks**, the event saw **great engagement** in the chat, with attendees asking insightful questions, sharing comments, and participating in discussions on the presented topics. The enthusiasm from the audience demonstrated the industry's growing interest in **Asphalt 4.0** and the digitalization of infrastructure.

WATCH THE WEBINAR ON YOUTUBE

If you missed the live session or would like to re-watch it, you can **watch the webinar on our Youtube channel here**. To stay updated on future webinars, conferences, and industry insights, be sure to **subscribe to the EAPA newsletter** and ensure you don't miss out on such events. Subscribe here

Right page:
EAPA Webinar on Asphalt 4.0 with Breixo Gómez, Natasha Poeran, Juan Jose Potti, Slovenko Henigman, Aida Marza, Ersun Görener.



Net Zero publication

Following the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 and the Paris Agreement of 2015 signatory states committed to climate protection through legally binding greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, which are reviewed and intensified every five years. European initiatives like the 2019 European Green Deal and the 2021 Fit for 55 legislation aim to reduce GHG emissions by 55% by 2030 (compared to levels in 1990) and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The transport sector, where roads facilitate 81% of passenger transport and 73% of inland freight in Europe, is a significant GHG emitter. Improving road conditions and using low rolling resistance solutions enhance vehicle energy efficiency, reducing emissions. Given that over 90% of European roads are paved in asphalt, the asphalt industry plays a crucial role in Europe's decarbonisation efforts by developing low-emission materials and techniques throughout the asphalt lifecycle.

For this reason, EAPA established a special Task Force at the end of 2022. Over the past two years, the Task Force has focused on the following key aspects:

1. Calculation of emissions from the asphalt industry in 1990.
2. Calculation of emissions from the asphalt industry nowadays.
3. Decarbonisation potential of a great deal of different technologies.
4. Levels of implementation of different technologies to meet the objectives in 2030 and 2050.

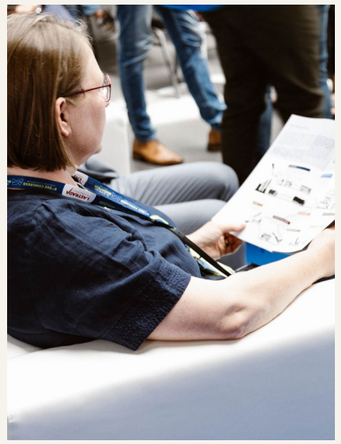
The outcome of this significant work is the publication titled **"Towards Net Zero - A Decarbonisation Roadmap for the Asphalt Industry"**, which was officially presented on the Associations Lounge stage during the **E&E Congress 2024**.

Over 150 participants gathered to receive a printed copy and attend the presentation by EAPA Technical Director, Breixo Gómez, who provided a brief overview of the document's contents. He explained how the roadmap outlines a clear strategy and actionable plan, based on various emission reduction scenarios. However, Gómez emphasised that the document also recognises the differing circumstances and stages of development across European countries, which will lead to varying opportunities for adopting certain technologies. Hence, this roadmap aims to demonstrate to stakeholders and the society at large that existing and emerging technologies can help the asphalt paving sector achieve European decarbonisation targets and also provide the industry with a probabilistic strategy for benchmarking current operations and guiding future investments. Importantly, this roadmap is not static. EAPA plans to regularly review and update it in response to emerging trends and new developments in the sector.

Additionally, the document includes a section that goes beyond the goal of net zero emissions, discussing other benefits that certain techniques may offer, such as reducing fumes through the use of low-temperature asphalt, improving pavement quality to extend service life, and contributing to the reduction of emissions from vehicles travelling on these roads.

The final section includes a series of calls to action, inviting governments, road authorities, industry stakeholders, and sectors beyond the asphalt paving industry to participate in a collaborative effort. It highlights the importance of shared responsibility in achieving the decarbonisation goals and fostering long-term sustainability.

The document is available for free on the EAPA website. In the near future, a complementary document will also be published, providing detailed information on calculation methods, data collection, background secondary data, assumptions, and more.











Right page: The release of "Towards Net Zero" at the E&E Congress 2024.



Right page: Tibor Verres receives the Asphalt Advocate Award at the E&E Congress

Tibor Veress: Our New Asphalt Advocate

At the recent E&E Congress in Budapest, Hungary, EAPA proudly presented the Asphalt Advocate of the Year Award for 2024 to Tibor Veress, Director of the Hungarian Asphalt Pavement Association (HAPA).

Tibor Veress has been an active member of EAPA since 2010, contributing significantly to the advancement of the asphalt industry through enhanced communication and knowledge sharing. His dedication to the "Asphalt Advantages" campaign, a collaborative initiative between EAPA and Eurobitume, has been instrumental in promoting the benefits of asphalt roads. Tibor has shown unwavering support for young engineers in Hungary, fostering the next generation of industry leaders.

Established in 2017, the Asphalt Advocate of the Year Award recognises individuals who have demonstrated exceptional initiative in promoting asphalt roads and effectively communicating key industry topics.

EAPA Secretary-General Dr. Carsten Karcher commended Veress for his contributions and dedication to the industry after presenting the award. Veress expressed his passion for asphalt in his award acceptance speech, emphasising his lifelong commitment to the field. **In his heartfelt acceptance speech, Tibor Veress shared his deep passion for asphalt, reflecting on his lifelong commitment to the field. He expressed gratitude for the recognition and emphasised the importance of continuous innovation and collaboration within the industry.**

Veress's achievements and dedication serve as an inspiration to all members of the asphalt community. His work not only promotes the benefits of asphalt but also strengthens the industry's commitment to sustainability and excellence.



Gathering of EAPA's Asphalt Advocates

Season 1 of the RoadCast: A Must-Listen for the Asphalt Industry

Season 1 of the RoadCast, the official podcast of EAPA, has wrapped up, delivering a wealth of knowledge and inspiration across its ad-free episodes.

Hosted by Carsten Karcher, this inaugural season took listeners on a journey through the diverse and dynamic world of asphalt, blending technical insights with compelling personal stories from industry leaders. Whether you're revisiting your favourite episodes or diving in for the first time, each episode offers valuable perspectives on various topics like sustainability, innovation, and the future of road infrastructure.

Stay connected, stay informed, and let's continue building the road to progress together! And don't forget to share your favourite episodes with colleagues and friends who will enjoy them. **Are you subscribed to the EAPA newsletter? Join the EAPA community today by clicking here and never miss out on the latest industry insights and updates!**

Episode 1: Welcome to the RoadCast!
This episode is among the top 3 of this season. Dive into the debut episode as Breixo Meijide and Carsten Karcher introduce the RoadCast, offering a dynamic overview of EAPA and its members, as well as a sneak peek into future episodes and seasons on this podcast.

Episode 2: Synergy of Eurobitume and Eurasphalt
Listen to Carsten Karcher and Siobhan McKelvey as they discuss the evolution of the asphalt and bitumen industries, highlighting key collaborations and sharing insights for those entering the field.

Episode 3: All about Asphalt: Hot Topics and EAPA Committees
One of the most listened-to episodes! Explore the core of asphalt with Dr. Knut Johannsen, covering everything from ingredients to recycling, and dive into the industry's latest hot topics, including sustainability and resilience.

Episode 4: Women in Asphalt: Insights on Leadership and Diversity
A must-listen! Amy Miller shares her inspiring journey as a leader in the asphalt industry, discussing the success of the Women of Asphalt organisation and the push for diversity in traditionally male-dominated fields.

Episode 5: Inspiring and Empowering the Next Generation of Engineers
Professor Bernhard Hofko shares his career journey and insights into mentoring young professionals, highlighting the crucial role of educators and engineers in shaping the industry's future.

Episode 6: Motorsports and Asphalt: From Family Business to Industry Leader
In the third most popular episode of season 1, Ralf Pomp discusses his family's legacy in the asphalt industry, the challenges they've faced, and his vision for the future, emphasising sustainability, innovation, and attracting young talent.

Right page: *Insights from the first season of The Roadcast, the podcast of EAPA*













The EAPA Team: Growth and Diversity

Over the past year, the European Asphalt Pavement Association (EAPA) has experienced significant growth, welcoming a more diverse team that now includes a greater number of women. While these talented women contribute part-time, their impact is felt throughout the organisation.

Leadership at EAPA has also seen important developments. In 2023, the presidency transitioned from Juan José Potti to our current President, Ralf Pomp, with Slovenko Henigman stepping in as Vice President. All leaders have infused the organisation with their passion and forward-thinking vision, driving initiatives that are shaping the future of the asphalt industry.

At the core of our team is Secretary General Carsten Karcher, who has been with EAPA for over a decade. His leadership has been crucial in building the strong team we have today. Working closely with him for nearly six years is Technical Director Breixo Gomez, whose technical expertise and dedication have been invaluable to EAPA's success. These two have been the backbone of the organisation, spearheading collaborations, organising impactful events, and disseminating valuable information to the asphalt industry. Not long ago, they were the entire team.

2023 was also a milestone year as EAPA celebrated its 50th anniversary. This included a move to a new office, strategically located even closer to the European Parliament, Council, and Commission in the heart of the European quarter.

The communication of these decades of achievements and new developments in the asphalt industry is in the capable hands of our Communication Team, led by our proficient Marketing and Communication Manager, Meghaa Vandana. She is supported by two talented women: Helga Beuving, our Visual Communication Officer, who has been with EAPA for a decade since beginning her career in graphic design, and our newest addition, PR and Communication Officer, Patricia Aybar, who brings a fresh perspective and creative enthusiasm to the team.

Rounding out the team are two more exceptional women: Gera Jansen, who manages EAPA's finances, and Rim Hijjawi, our Office Management Assistant, who ensures the smooth operation of our office and also occasionally supports the communication team during events.

Together, this diverse and talented team ensures that the asphalt industry's voice is heard at the European and global levels through EAPA. In addition, EAPA will be welcoming interns to the team to encourage and inspire young talents to become part of the dynamic asphalt industry. If you would like to learn more about this EAPA team, visit this link.

Collaborate with us:
We are eager to explore collaborations on impactful content, including blogs, articles, our Generation Asphalt YouTube series, and The Roadcast podcast. Your support can further build a strong, informed industry network. If you'd like to contribute or have suggestions, please contact us at communications@eapa.org.



Dr. Carsten Karcher
Secretary General



Dr. Breixo Gómez
Technical Director



Meghaa Vandana
Marketing and Communication Manager



Helga Beuving
Visual Communication



Patricia Aybar
PR & Communication Officer



Rim Hijjawi
Office Management Assistant



Gera Jansen
Finance

GAPA Meeting

The Global Asphalt Pavement Alliance (GAPA) meeting held on June 21, 2024, in Budapest brought together industry leaders from around the globe to discuss key developments and challenges in the asphalt industry. Hosted at the Millinaris Congress Centre, the event was led by Carsten Karcher, Secretary General of EAPA, with attendees representing the organizations AfPA, EAPA, JRCA, AMAAC, NAPA, Civil Contractors NZ, Sabita.

One of the primary focuses of the meeting was to widen the reach of GAPA, where members were encouraged to reach out to potential new participants. The election of the chairman also took place, where Carsten Karcher was re-elected, with unanimous support, to continue in this role.

A significant outcome was the decision to produce a new edition of the GAPA magazine, with all members contributing articles. The magazine, last published in 2020, will be updated with fresh insights from the asphalt sector, with a release scheduled for scheduled for 2025. The GAPA website will also undergo updates, with member events and statistics to be featured more prominently.

Other critical discussions included the promotion of sustainable practices in the asphalt industry. Presentations covered topics like reducing CO_2 emissions, resilience in asphalt production, and the benefits of alternative binders. Updates on global efforts to enhance road maintenance, particularly in the U.S. and South Africa, were shared.

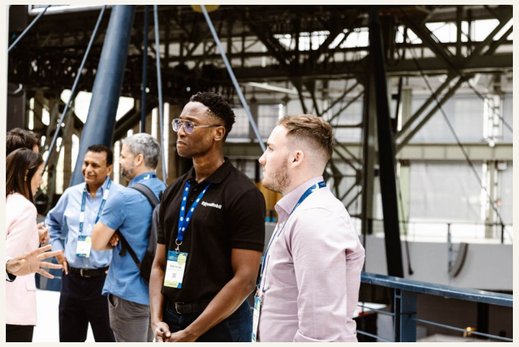
The meeting concluded with plans for the next GAPA meeting, set to take place on October 1, 2025, in Chicago, following NAPA's International Conference on Decarbonization of Asphalt Pavements.





***Right page:** Pictures from the GAPA meeting which brought together industry leaders for insightful discussions and strategic collaboration.*











8th E&E Congress:

Breixo Gomez Reflects on a Summer of Collaboration and Innovation



Before joining EAPA, during my time as a researcher in pavement engineering, I heard many peers speak highly of the E&E Congress, the top European event for professionals in the road construction and maintenance sector. Shortly after I joined EAPA in 2018, I had my first hands-on experience at an E&E Event (not Congress) in Berlin—an experience that far exceeded my expectations. I was impressed by the incredible array of sector professionals gathered together, each deeply engaged and passionate about their field.

In 2020, I was set to make my debut at the E&E Congress. But as preparations were in full swing, the COVID-19 crisis unfolded, compelling us to pivot to a virtual format. Although it was a bit disappointing not to witness a conventional E&E Congress, this shift showed me the resilience and adaptability of our community. After six years with EAPA, 2024 finally brought my first in-person participation in an E&E Congress. On top of that, I received the responsibility of being the Chairman of the Technical Programme Committee (TPC), discovering the numerous challenges involved in organising such an outstanding event. As the Congress approached, the excitement in anticipation of seeing the results of our hard work, combined with the anxiety over potential unforeseen challenges, kept me awake at night.

In this journey, I am profoundly grateful to our Eurobitume colleagues Anja Sörensen and Ian Lancaster, as well as the entire TPC team, for their invaluable support through countless emails and ad-hoc meetings. Their contributions were crucial in structuring the Congress, selecting papers, and chairing engaging sessions, among other tasks. One of the key decisions made by the TPC, especially considering that the previous edition had been virtual, was to maximise interactivity and participant engagement throughout the Congress. To achieve this, a new session structure was designed to be more dynamic, encouraging lively exchanges among speakers, session chairs, and the audience. This change was well received, as evidenced by the vibrant discussions in every technical session.

Our traditional poster session's interactivity was also boosted by the novel "Meet the Authors" initiative, where the authors of six selected posters were invited to the stage to present a brief description of their contributions. This helped to "break the ice" and initiate discussions, which soon spread throughout the poster area. Additionally, and for the first time, three workshops were organised in a highly stimulating and collaborative format.

During the first workshop, a full room of participants (mainly industry professionals) and I had the opportunity to exchange views on stage for an hour and a half with two remarkable representatives from National Road Authorities: Inge van Vilsteren



Attendees follow the discussions at the E&E Congress 2024



from the Dutch Road Administration and Katri Eskola from the Finnish Road Administration. I particularly enjoyed the alignment in our vision for the future of our sector—a vision that involves more and better road maintenance, circularity, decarbonisation, resilience, and innovation. The main conclusion of this workshop was that achieving the European objectives is a collaborative responsibility shared by all stakeholders in our sector, and it is up to us to leverage these synergies.

The second workshop was intended as an "open doors day" to the world of standardisation. The objective was not so much to delve deeply into current standardisation issues but rather to provide visibility to the activities of CEN Technical Committees and attract new experts who can help shape the future standards for bituminous mixtures and bituminous binders. To be honest, during the organisation of this workshop, I thought the topic was important but also very specific, which might lead to low participation. I was shocked when I saw the auditorium completely full, with experts continuously raising their hands to ask questions, taking photos of the information being presented, and actively participating in surveys and discussions. Some participants even told me after the session that they planned to start the process to join as national experts in our technical committees. For the organisers of this workshop, nothing could have been more rewarding!

The third workshop, held on the last day right before the closing ceremony, gathered another full auditorium of participants to discuss, for the first time in the history of E&E Congresses and Events, a crucial topic: the role of women in shaping the future of our sector.

In parallel to these activities, the Congress was buzzing with social events and activities (including receptions, the Congress dinner, and the morning "run for fun" around Marguerite Island), commercial events in the exhibition area, and, of course, technical sessions in both auditoriums that never stopped. Through these technical sessions, the breadth of topics covered was, once again, impressive, blending traditional subjects like asphalt and bitumen characterisation with urgent contemporary issues such as decarbonisation, digitalisation, resilience, and new mobility.

I could not pick a favourite presentation, but one that stood out was Zeliha Temren's enlightening talk during the Resilience session, where she shared critical lessons learned from the road failures caused by the devastating earthquake in Turkey in 2023.

In these sessions, we were also privileged to have invited session chairs, such as Steve Phillips (CEDR), Verena Rosauer (BASt), and Inge van Vilsteren (Rijkswaterstaat), whose insights from their respective institutions, connected to road administrations across Europe, immeasurably enriched our discussions.

I cannot conclude without highlighting the tremendous success of this year's exciting addition: the creation of an Associations Lounge, which offered an excellent view of the entire exhibition area from the exhibition stage. This comfortable space, framed by booths from not only EAPA but also HAPA, ZAS, Eurobitume, and the Asphalt Institute, was constantly visited by professionals from the asphalt and bitumen sectors seeking information about our work. They also visited the LinkedIn corner to enhance their profiles and network while watching Euro Cup matches or following stage events. It was precisely on this stage that our inspirational Tibor Veress was granted the EAPA Asphalt Advocate Award 2024, and where we officially presented what will undoubtedly become one of EAPA's most important documents: The Decarbonisation Roadmap for the Asphalt Industry.

Reflecting on all these experiences that I was finally able to experience in person, it became clear to me that the E&E Congress continues to be a cornerstone for innovation and professional development in our field. The Congress has not only met but exceeded expectations, setting new benchmarks for what is possible and essential for industry growth. I look forward to many more editions and witnessing the evolution of this pivotal event.











"The 8th E & E Congress in June 2024 in Budapest showcased Europe's top asphalt innovations. The event emphasized future mobility, digitalization, and sustainability. EAPA introduced the "Towards Net Zero" document, outlining the industry's goal for carbon neutrality by 2050. The asphalt sector is leading in construction advancements, with improved production methods and working conditions."

Slovenko Henigman -
Founder & CEO - Sloman, d.o.o.

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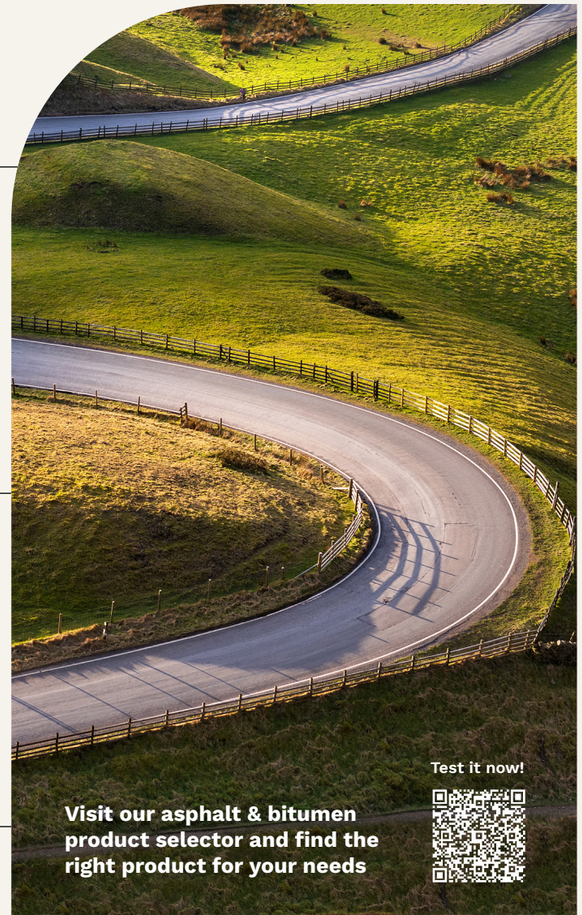
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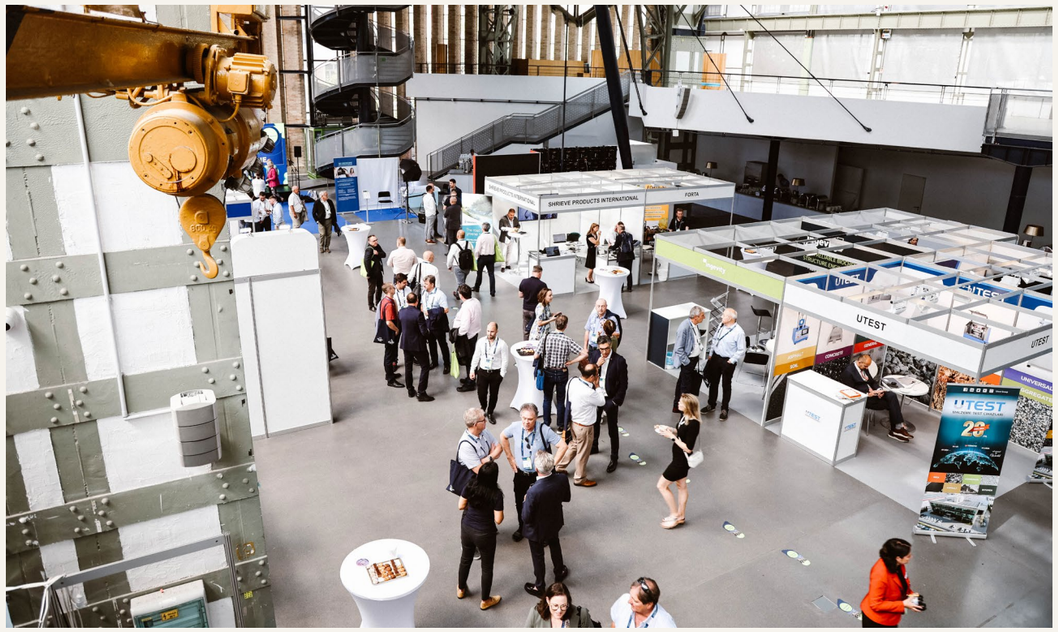
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Attendees participated in panels and keynote sessions, joined interactive workshops, and connected with others during networking moments, dinners.













Attendees engaged with each other through discussions, networking sessions, and collaborative activities, building connections throughout the congress.













Right page:
Final speeches highlighted key insights and marked the conclusion of the congress.

"Attending the E&E Congress for the first time was a positive experience. The event is very valuable, offering the opportunity to meet many interesting people and organizations from the asphalt industry worldwide. It's the ideal place to gain knowledge, exchange ideas, and network.

I was also impressed by the workshop introducing Women Love Asphalt, an American initiative now being brought to Europe to encourage more women to join the asphalt industry.

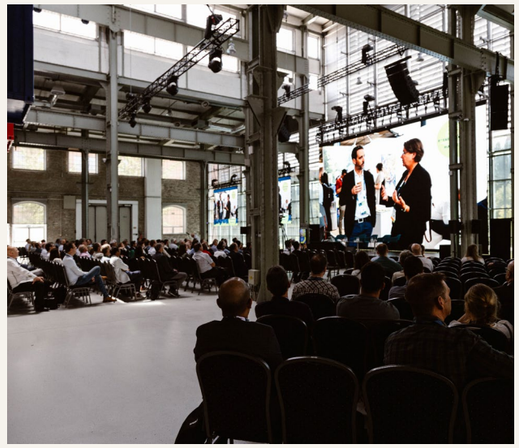
The event is professionally and very well organized, featuring a diverse program that even includes a running event! We (Ventraco) will definitely be there for the next edition!"

Sheranie van Hassel
- Freelance Marketing & Event manager

















"Beyond Resilience, Sustainability, and Innovation, this session showcased remarkable diversity: diversity in topics ranging from academic research to practical performance applications, diversity in the countries represented by our speakers (spanning from Northern to Southern Europe), and diversity in the backgrounds of participants, including road authorities, universities, and bitumen producers."

Véronique Ducreux

Article written by session chair

SESSION 1 CHAIR
Véronique Ducreux

SESSION TITLE
Binder performance

SUMMARY
The themes of Resilience, Sustainability, and Innovation were thoroughly addressed across the four presentations. In the bitumen and asphalt industry, Resilience refers to the ability of materials to withstand stress and maintain performance over time—an underlying focus in all the research presented, given the importance of long-lasting performance for infrastructure development.

Sustainability was explored through the use of bio-components, with a focus on assessing their performance and durability. Presenters emphasised that durable materials reduce the need for frequent replacements, thereby lowering environmental impact, showing how bitumen binders can support sustainable construction practices.

Innovation was evident in new methods to assess binder performance, selection of the most suitable binder for local climates, and the introduction of bio-molecules across multiple applications, with comparisons to petroleum-based binders. These innovative approaches enhance the efficiency of material selection and ensure binders are optimally matched to withstand local environmental conditions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- laboratory study on the durability assessment of bio-extended bituminous binders by rheological characterization after long-term ageing (Jiqing Zhu)
- The use of bio-based or recycled additives in emulsions for microsurfacing applications and their performance (María del Mar Colás Victoria)
- Assessment of methods for measuring asphalt properties at cold temperatures (Di Wang)
- Development of an innovative protocol to evaluate bitumen binder performance, aiding in the selection of the most suitable binder (Fernando Moreno-Navarro)

Experts Véronique Ducreux, Jiqing Zhu, María del Mar Colás Victoria, Di Wang, and Fernando Moreno-Navarro discussed advancements in binder properties and their impact on pavement performance.









"Warm Mix Asphalts are produced and applied using well-established techniques, offering numerous benefits such as reduced emissions and recycling compatibility. The bitumen industry is committed to ongoing research and collaboration with stakeholders to lower asphalt temperatures while maintaining essential performance standards, especially service life, which is crucial for life cycle analysis."

Brice Delaporte

Article written by session chair





Brice Delaporte, Laszlo Petho, Umesh Sahoo, James Wurst, and Myriam Desroches explored innovations and techniques for enhancing asphalt performance in low-temperature conditions.



SESSION 2 CHAIR
Brice Delaporte

SESSION TITLE
Low-temperature asphalt

SUMMARY
The session on "Low-Temperature Asphalt" explored Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) and Cold Mix Asphalt (CMA) as two promising techniques to reduce the environmental impact of asphalt mixtures. Four presentations showcased new findings that could support wider use of these methods. The first presentation focused on WMA additives, including the combination of crumb rubber with bitumen, which produced open-graded asphalt with improved skid resistance and lower tire noise. The second presentation highlighted the potential of dense-graded CMA as a structural layer in conventional pavements, replacing Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA). In the third presentation, speakers discussed how using WMA additives to lower mixture temperatures reduces emissions and fuel consumption at production facilities. The final presentation shared in situ observations demonstrating that WMA provides improved working conditions and matches HMA performance on job sites, though assessing workability in the laboratory remains challenging.

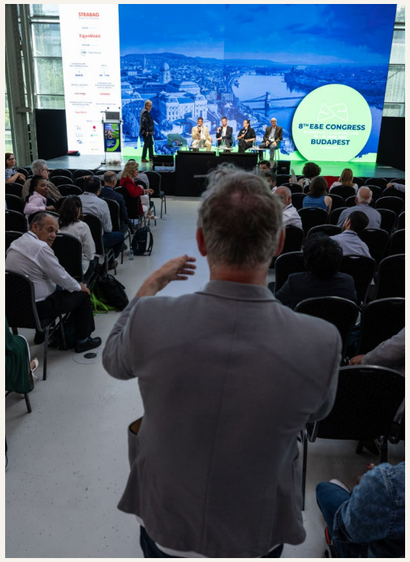
KEY TAKEAWAYS
- Energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions are both known to decrease when using Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA) techniques.
- Plant measurements using WMA additives presented during the session indicate that additional emissions also decrease significantly with lower mix production temperatures.
- Workability assessed through the NF P98-258-1 standard and gyratory testing are complementary methods that measure different physical properties; however, they are not always correlated.
- Workability is a critical factor for handling WMA effectively on the jobsite.
- Some experimental results at the laboratory scale showed that dense-graded Cold Mix Asphalt (CMA) can replace Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) as a structural layer in conventional pavements, though field validation and life cycle analysis are still required.



"It was a pleasure to experience Budapest in the summer, having only visited previously with ice floating in the Danube! It was great to reconnect with industry colleagues and friends—and to make new ones. It was also encouraging to see EAPA leading the industry's Net Zero ambitions, showing how even small changes can add up to significant positive impacts."

Malcolm Simms

Article written by session chair





Malcolm Simms, Pahirangan Sivapatham, Jure Zekič, Daniel Rogg, and Agata Grajewska presented advancements in the design and application of high-performance asphalt mixtures.



SESSION 3 CHAIR
Malcolm Simms

SESSION TITLE
High performance asphalt mixtures

SUMMARY
The speakers in this session illustrated that the sector is actively engaged in research to address both industry and societal challenges. They explored how the components of materials, design, production (increasingly at lower temperatures), and deployment into pavement structures all play interconnected roles. Radical and incremental approaches alike demonstrated that asphalt material and pavement performance should not be compromised for any single objective, as focusing too narrowly may lead to unintended consequences.

The Session Chair aptly described this balancing act as "spinning plates while walking a tightrope." Speakers showcased how specific challenges can be addressed comprehensively, creating a holistic approach to innovation that enhances sustainability and resilience. Special thanks go to all presenters for their efforts and preparations—taking the big stage, even with an even bigger (and hot) screen, which, we hope, they found rewarding despite any initial nerves!

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- Encouraging research and innovation in asphalt performance enhancement is emerging from all corners of Europe.
- The sector is investigating in detail a wide range of factors influencing potential performance issues, which are both varied and complex.
- Investigations span from fine aggregate particles and additive types to balanced mixture and pavement design.
- Specific local or regional solutions are being developed to address both unique and common challenges, with potential applicability across regions.
- These efforts align well with the Congress themes of Resilience, Sustainability, and Innovation.



This session focused on looking toward the future, embracing both the challenges and opportunities to improve road sustainability, future-proofing, and resilience. It also explored how digitalization can support these advancements.

Steve Phillips
Source: E&E Congress 2024, Session 5

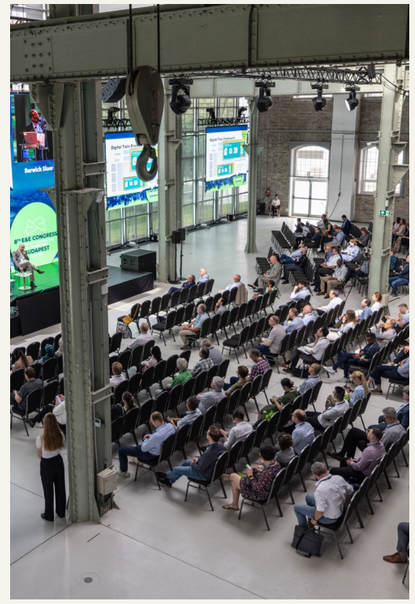
Article written by session Breixo Gomez

SESSION 5 CHAIR
Steve Phillips

SESSION TITLE
Future Mobility and Digitalisation

SUMMARY
The congress session on Future Mobility and Digitalisation focused on the transformative impact of digital technologies in asphalt paving and road construction. One presentation highlighted a real-world example at Zurich Airport, where digital tools significantly enhanced the efficiency and precision of asphalt paving processes. Another explored the development and testing of thermo-active pavement technologies under porous asphalt layers, aimed at improving the durability and energy efficiency of road surfaces.
The session also included a discussion on using ontology as a foundational element for creating digital twins in asphalt construction. This approach allows for the creation of highly accurate digital representations of physical infrastructure, improving decision-making, maintenance, and overall management. Finally, a case study from Andalusia, Spain, showcased the implementation of advanced digitalisation techniques in the region's road network. This initiative aims to develop smarter, more sustainable roadways, reflecting the future direction of road infrastructure.
Together, these presentations underscored the potential of digitalisation to revolutionise road construction and management, making them more efficient, sustainable, and adaptable to future challenges.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:
- Digitalisation will play a crucial role in the sector's development in the coming years.
- Many digital innovations are already available on the market, but Road Authorities need to increase demand for these technologies.
- Similar to green public procurement integrating sustainability criteria into contracts, it is essential to start incorporating digitalisation criteria.
- Digital technologies may not have the visual impact of larger machinery, but they can greatly enhance productivity, quality, and efficiency.
- Today's digital systems in vehicles and infrastructure can collect valuable data to improve asset management; however, interest in this capability remains limited.

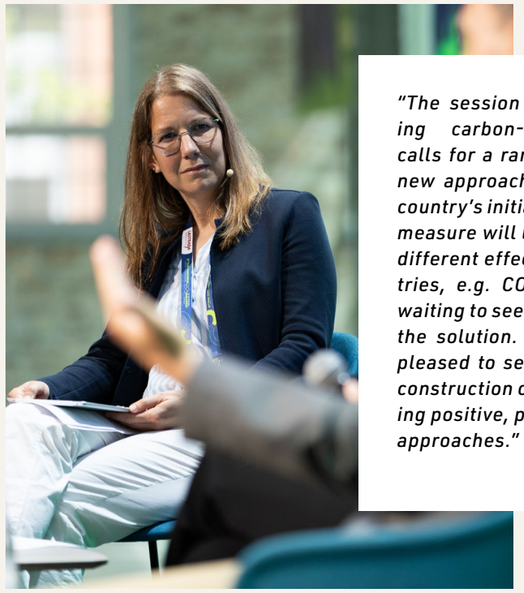






Steve Phillips, Thomas Leopoldseder, Emilie Lebel, Berwich Sluer, and Mayca Rubio discussed the role of digital innovations and future mobility trends in shaping the asphalt industry.





"The session showed that reaching carbon-neutral pavements calls for a range of measures and new approaches. Depending on a country's initial situation, the same measure will lead to quantitatively different effects in different countries, e.g. CO_2 savings. However, waiting to see what others do is not the solution. I am reassured and pleased to see all sectors of road construction contributing and testing positive, promising actions and approaches."

Verena Rosauer

Article written by session chair



Verena Rosauer, Tine Tanghe, Johan Blom, Liz Mensink, and Simon Pouget shared strategies and innovations aimed at achieving carbon neutrality in pavement construction and maintenance.



SESSION 7 CHAIR
Verena Rosauer

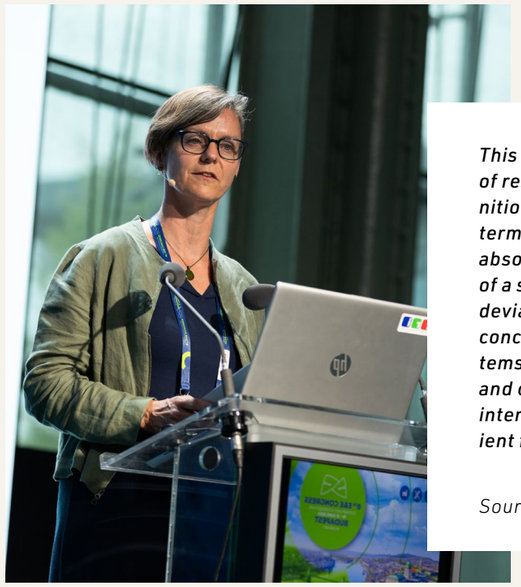
SESSION TITLE
Toward carbon-neutral pavements

SUMMARY
The session highlighted several key considerations on the path to carbon-neutral road infrastructure. The Netherlands is already taking significant steps, with the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. Strategies include using bio-based materials, warm-mix asphalt (WMA), and extending pavement lifespan. Another critical aspect is reducing the use of primary resources, which can be addressed through reclaimed asphalt. However, special attention is needed to manage the variability in reclaimed asphalt, especially as its proportion in the mix increases, as this variability can impact the mixture's workability and compactibility, as shown by laboratory results.

Most greenhouse gas emissions during a road's service life occur in the operational phase, largely due to traffic. Reducing pavement rolling resistance can lead to significant energy savings, achievable by optimising the mix composition without compromising safety. However, with the 2030 Climate Target in mind, it's essential to focus not only on CO_2 emissions but also on other harmful fumes and their accurate measurement to support the goal of net-zero emissions.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- Achieving carbon-neutral pavements demands pushing boundaries, setting ambitious goals, and the courage to make changes.
- Current practices must be reevaluated and optimized for carbon neutrality, including:
- Managing reclaimed asphalt variability and properties to ensure mixture workability, compactibility, and performance.
- Adjusting asphalt composition to reduce rolling resistance and lower traffic emissions.
- Findings presented still require validation through real-world applications.





This session discussed the concept of resilience. There are myriad definitions and interpretations of this term. To me, resilience involves the absorption, recovery, and adaptation of a system following a disruption that deviates from the original plan. This concept is applicable to various systems, including ecosystems, society, and climate change, all of which must interconnect to foster a climate-resilient future.

Inge van Vilsteren
Source: E&E Congress 2024, Session 09

Article written by Breixo Gomez

SESSION 9 CHAIR
Inge van Vilsteren

SESSION TITLE
Resilience

SUMMARY
The congress session on resilience in the asphalt paving industry examined key challenges and innovative strategies to improve road durability and adaptability. One presentation provided a detailed analysis of road damage from the 2023 earthquakes in Turkey, which affected around 150 km of roads, underscoring the importance of pre-disaster resilience and mitigation plans to minimise transport disruptions.

Another presentation highlighted early crack detection in perpetual pavements using resistance-based self-sensing asphalt mixtures in Poland, allowing real-time monitoring and early intervention to extend pavement lifespan. A discussion on Poland's perpetual pavement design followed, focusing on its potential for durable, low-maintenance road surfaces.

The final presentation addressed the impact of climate change on pavement resilience, particularly the risks posed by rising groundwater levels in coastal areas, which threaten the structural stability of flexible pavements. This session emphasized the need for resilient pavement designs and advanced monitoring techniques to protect road infrastructure from natural disasters and climate-related challenges.

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- The asphalt industry should be prepared to act as a first responder during disasters.
- Pre-disaster resilience enhancement and mitigation plans should be implemented proactively.
- Electrically conductive asphalt materials enable early detection and prediction of cracking.
- "Perpetual pavement" designs improve durability under heavy loads and extend the service life of high-traffic roads.
- Rising groundwater levels in coastal areas can greatly reduce the lifespan of standard pavement structures.





Inge van Vilsteren, Federico Gulisano, Karolina Pełczyńska, Mehmet Göksel Göçmez, and Zeliha Temren explored strategies for enhancing resilience in asphalt pavements to withstand evolving environmental and operational challenges.









Defining binder modification can be challenging. It involves the physical and chemical interactions between a binder and a substance, beginning when the binder starts aging in contact with oxygen at the asphalt plant. This session illuminated a broad spectrum of topics, including polymer-modified RAP, multicriteria monitoring of ageing, and the glass transition morphology. The range of speakers was as broad as the topics, from start-ups to large international companies.

Mario Sandor:
Source: E&E Congress 2024, Session 10

SESSION 10 CHAIR
Mario Sandor

SESSION TITLE
Binder Modification

SUMMARY

The congress session on Binder Modification highlighted advancements in polymer-modified bitumen (PMB) to boost asphalt pavement durability, sustainability, and performance. One presentation reviewed PMB's long-term performance in Swedish roads, showing its effectiveness in enhancing durability and extending service life in harsh conditions. Another discussed improving recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) with new PMB to raise quality and sustainability in re-used road materials.

The session also introduced innovative methods for monitoring PMB aging. A multicriteria technique provided insights into PMB's long-term changes, essential for anticipating performance issues. Additionally, a presentation on complex bitumen blends examined the role of glass transition morphology, shedding light on the microscopic interactions of bitumen components—critical for optimizing binder formulations for better performance and resilience.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Statistics from historic data suggest PMB has a significantly longer lifetime compared to conventional bitumen.
- PMB alone does not guarantee performance; treatment selection and groundwork are equally important.
- Various methodologies were proposed for assessing and monitoring PMB.
- Enhancing these methods with Artificial Intelligence shows promise, especially for managing large data sets. However, it's essential to first engage stakeholders to ensure high-quality data.

Article written by Breixo Gomez





Mario Sandor, Kristin Eklöf, Kees Plug, Iliass Tahiri, and Hassan Tabatabaee examined advancements in binder modification techniques to improve asphalt performance and durability.





Article written by Breixo Gomez

"We test products to determine whether they will meet market requirements and ensure a certain level of performance. Developing new binder testing techniques beyond penetration and softening point tests is essential. These tests help characterize binders for specialized applications such as mastic asphalt, assess heterogeneous binders like crumb-rubber bitumen, and better understand the ageing phenomena, among others, to achieve greater durability of pavement surfaces. This session delved into these topics, aiding in the advancement of binder testing."

Jean-Nicolas Desprez

SESSION 11 CHAIR
Jean-Nicolas Desprez

SESSION TITLE
Advanced binder testing

SUMMARY

The congress session on Advanced Binder Testing highlighted innovative techniques for evaluating and enhancing the performance of bituminous binders. It opened with a study on high-temperature performance evaluation of binders for Gussasphalt, underscoring the importance of binder selection—particularly polymer-modified binders—to ensure asphalt stability and durability in high temperatures.

Another presentation introduced advanced mixing rheometry for dynamic shear rheometer (DSR) testing, focusing on highly heterogeneous binders. This method improves the accuracy of rheological measurements, offering valuable insights into the complex behaviour of modern binders during mixing and application.

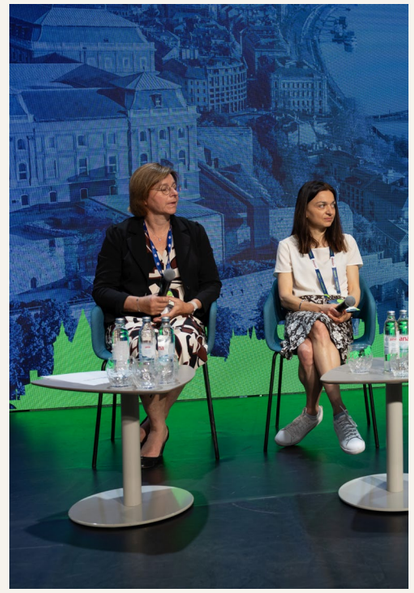
The session also included an ageing kinetic study of bitumen using SAR-AD (Saturates, Aromatics, Resins, and Asphaltenes Distribution) fractions, providing a detailed look at how bitumen components evolve over time for more precise lifespan predictions. Lastly, a presentation on bitumen ageing mechanisms employed Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) and low-field Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), delivering a supramolecular-level view of ageing and potential approaches to producing reduced-ageing binders.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Current challenges in pavement engineering demand advanced binder testing beyond traditional penetration or softening point methods.
- Non-homogeneous binders may require alternative testing techniques to accurately assess properties like viscosity.
- SAR-AD (Saturates, Aromatics, Resins, and Asphaltenes Distribution) separation techniques offer deeper insights into bitumen aging.
- Techniques such as Electron Paramagnetic Resonance (EPR) and low-field Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) enable supramolecular-level investigation of bitumens across a broad temperature range without dissolution.

Jean-Nicolas Desprez, Aybike Öngel, Gaspare Giancontieri, Véronique Ducreux, and Ségolène Laage presented innovative methods and techniques for advanced testing of asphalt binders.









"It was wonderful to see everyone together again, like reuniting with old colleagues and friends after years apart. The event offered a great balance of knowledge-sharing in sessions, friendly debates in the poster area, networking in the exhibition, and even some enjoyable football games. My favourite memory will be seeing all the asphalt runners gathering early for a tour around Margaret Island–and yes, I completed the 5km!"

Laurent Porot

Article written by session chair

SESSION 12 CHAIR
Laurent Porot

SESSION TITLE
Sustainability Assessment

SUMMARY
The asphalt community is making notable strides in sustainability across academia, regulatory bodies, authorities, and industry. This session focused on sharing diverse perspectives and best practices, featuring:
Chait Bhat from the US Asphalt Institute and Richard Taylor, Chair of Eurobitume's Bitumen Sustainability Steering Committee, highlighted industry strategies and the importance of a shared knowledge base for reliable Life Cycle Assessments (LCA).
Oliveira dos Santos from Twente University provided academic insights, emphasizing that defining boundary conditions is essential. While the main impacts occur during road use, the construction industry can still take steps toward decarbonization.
Davide Lo Presti from Palermo University discussed case studies using bio-based materials, stressing that a holistic approach must consider all indicators, not only carbon footprint.
Flavien Geisler from Eiffage explained how assumptions about biogenic carbon can significantly impact the evaluation and benefits of sustainable technologies, calling for standardisation to drive a paradigm shift.
The session concluded with a call for commitment from all stakeholders to make meaningful changes in sustainability, advocating for broader implementation and standardisation in the field. Are we ready to make this shift?

KEY TAKEAWAYS
- Sustainability is everyone's responsibility, beyond regulatory obligations.
- Developing a shared language around sustainable practices is essential.
- The session fostered common understanding across industry, academia, and business.
- Consistent assumptions, harmonised approaches, and durability are crucial.
- Low-carbon solutions are only effective if they minimise the need for replacements.



Laurent Porot, Chaitanyaganesh Bhat, Joao Oliveira dos Santos, Davide Lo Presti, and Flavien Geisler discussed methods and frameworks for evaluating the sustainability of asphalt materials and practices.





E&E Congress 2024: Social Activities that Foster Engagement and Connection

An exceptional congress is one that offers not only high-quality sessions but also abundant opportunities for attendees to network and engage in a casual, relaxed setting. E&E Congress 2024 delivered exactly that—and more.

The event kicked off with a pre-congress scenic boat cruise around the enchanting city of Budapest. Attendees were captivated by the stunning views and engaged in lively conversations with industry peers from around the globe, setting the stage for the following days' sessions and workshops. This was a perfect prelude, filled with anticipation for the wealth of knowledge and discussions to come.
Throughout the congress, the exhibition area buzzed with energy as attendees connected over food, snacks, and drinks between sessions and during breaks. A special highlight was the introduction of pink mocktails, designed to promote a workshop titled "How the Industry Can Better Encourage Women in Our Sector." This creative initiative sparked curiosity and meaningful conversations about inclusivity in the asphalt and bitumen industries.

The Congress app proved to be an indispensable tool, enabling attendees to plan their schedules, navigate the venue with ease, participate in interactive polls, and engage with other participants. It seamlessly blended technology with the event's interactive ethos, ensuring that everyone stayed informed and connected.

One of the standout spots was the Association Lounge. This vibrant area served as a hub where organisers and their members hosted booths, fun games, and engaging activities. The lounge's stage showcased videos and photos from the congress's previous days, creating a sense of continuity and celebration. It also hosted significant moments, such as the presentation of the EAPA Asphalt Advocate of 2024 award and the eagerly anticipated launch of the Net Zero document. Attendees gathered to listen to its key insights and collect their copies, further fuelling discussions on sustainability.

Adjacent to this lively stage was a professional photo booth, complete with top-tier lighting and a neutral backdrop. Attendees could have their photos taken for LinkedIn or other professional uses, with some even returning on different days in new outfits to make the most of this unique opportunity. This initiative aimed to encourage industry professionals to enhance their presence on social platforms like LinkedIn, fostering greater engagement, sharing of industry news, and showcasing innovations to attract fresh talent.

Day 1 concluded with a warm welcome reception in the exhibition area, setting a friendly and collaborative tone for the congress. Day 2 was equally dynamic, featuring vibrant discussions in the exhibition area, a dedicated poster session where attendees could meet authors and delve deeper into their research, and a grand evening event at the Museum of Fine Arts. With live music, exquisite cuisine, and the museum's breathtaking architecture, this event provided a perfect setting for networking and unwinding after a day of stimulating sessions.

The final day of the congress ended on a high note with inspiring closing speeches and a heartwarming video montage capturing moments from the pre-congress boat cruise to the final sessions and the "Run for Fun" activity. Over 50 participants joined this fun and invigorating 5k run around













Margaret Island on the morning of the final day. These highlights underscored the congress's success in fostering knowledge exchange, building connections, and creating lasting memories.

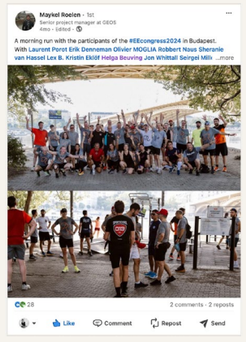
Participants left the event with certificates of attendance and access to session recordings for three months, enabling them to revisit their favourite moments and insights. The overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees attests to the event's success.

We now eagerly look forward to welcoming both familiar faces and new participants to the next E&E Event, set to take place on June 11th and 12th, 2026, in Vienna. More details will be shared by EAPA and Eurobitume in 2025. Mark your calendars for what promises to be another unforgettable event!

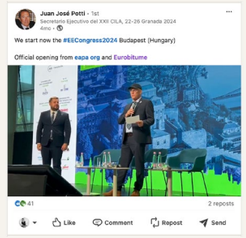
Interesting social media posts on the E&E Congress

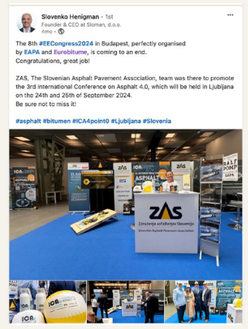


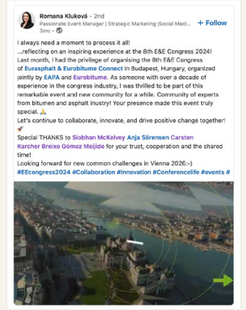


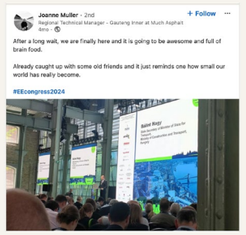






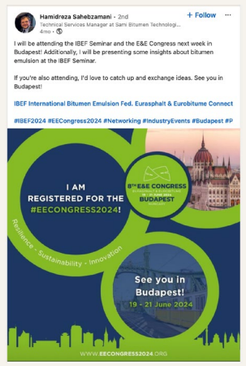






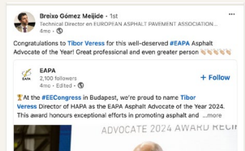


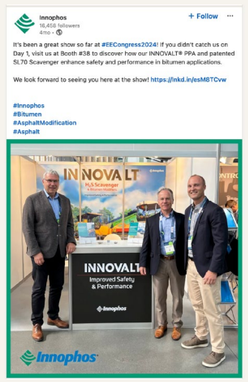


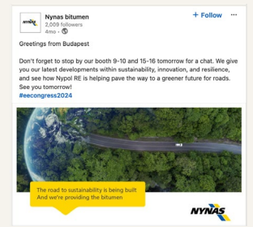


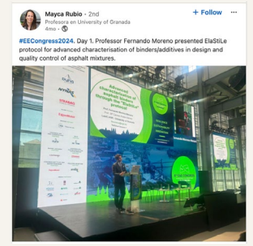






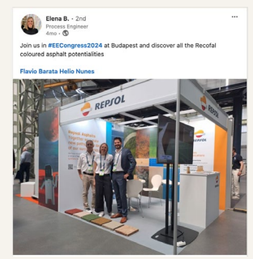


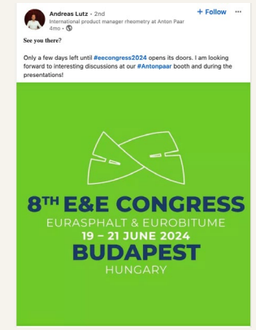


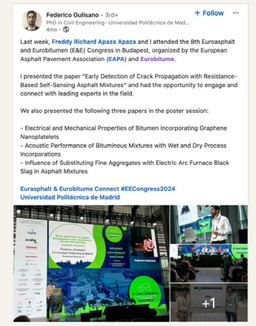


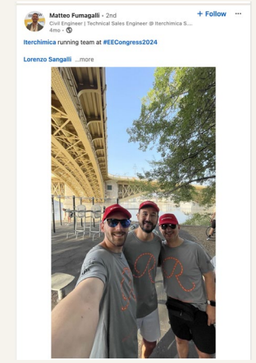


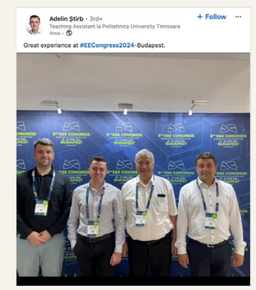




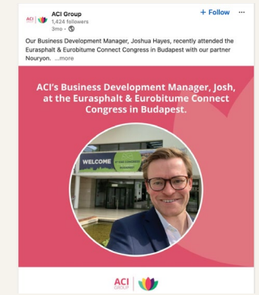


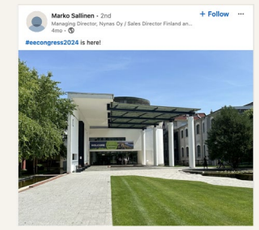




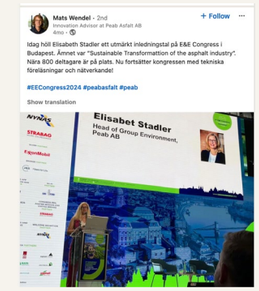




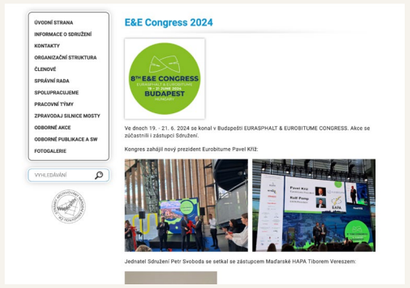






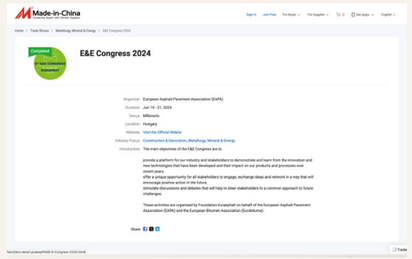


E&E in the media

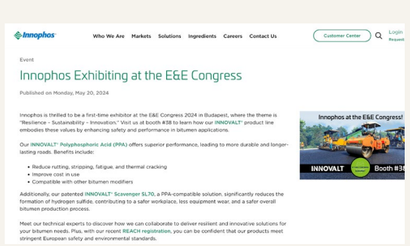


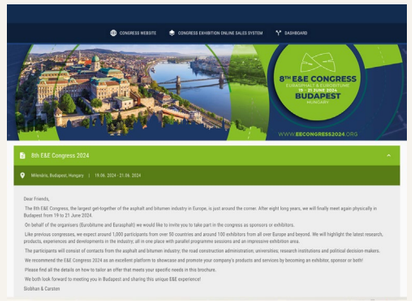


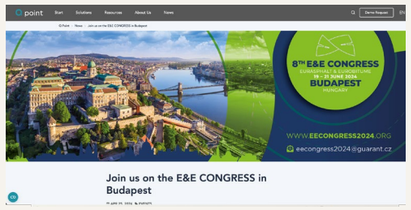


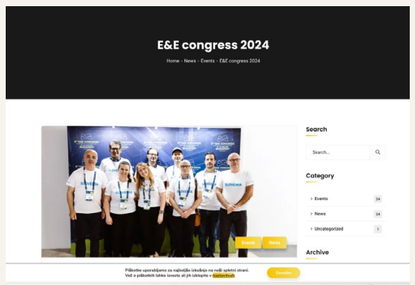


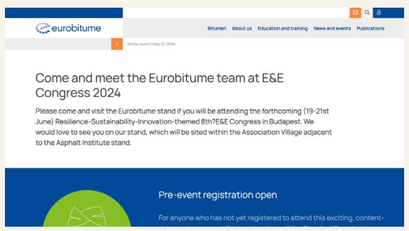


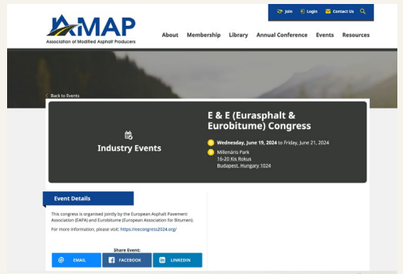


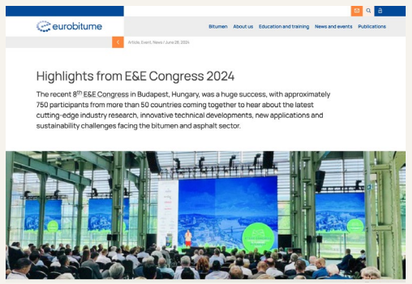


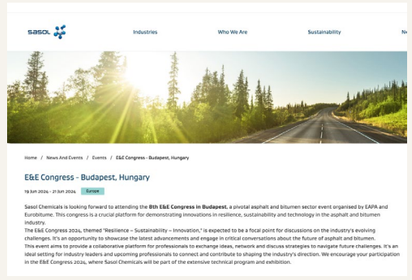




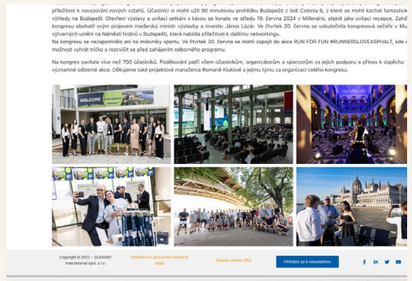


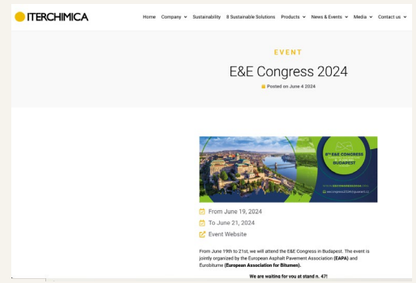


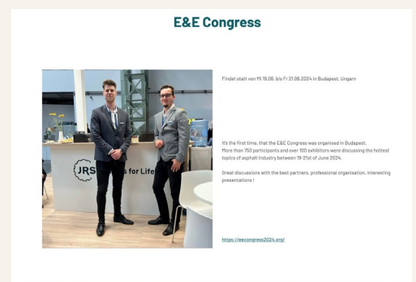


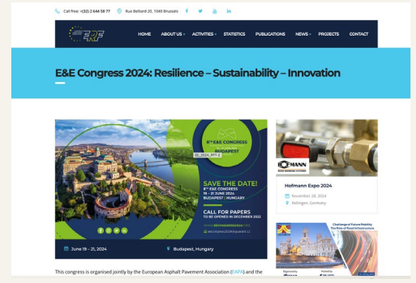


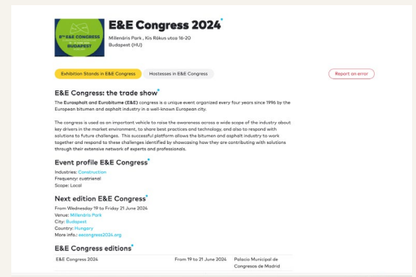


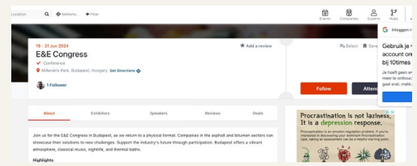












Conferences & Events

Asphaltica 2024

EAPA's Engagement in Driving Innovation and Sustainability in Road Infrastructure

At Asphaltica 2024 in Bologna, EAPA proudly contributed to driving sustainable innovation in the asphalt sector. Secretary General Carsten Karcher delivered one of the opening speeches at the SITEB Agorà, highlighting the commitment to industry collaboration and important steps forward in road infrastructure sustainability.

Throughout the event, Carsten engaged with colleagues from Italy and across Europe, facilitating valuable discussions on evolving industry challenges and solutions. This setting provided an ideal platform for EAPA to support and amplify members' efforts towards sustainable advancements.

Our members actively showcased their cutting-edge technologies and innovations across exhibition booths, with companies such as infraTest Prüftechnik GmbH, JRS J. Rettenmaier & Söhne, Ammann Group, Marini - Fayat Group, Iterchimica, Benninghoven (Wirtgen Group), and Vögele (Wirtgen Group) presenting impressive solutions. These contributions underscored the innovative strength within our association and EAPA's role in fostering excellence across the sector.

Asphaltica 2024 captured EAPA's dedication to uniting industry stakeholders and nurturing impactful developments in asphalt and road infrastructure.

Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence with the Polish Asphalt Pavement Association (PSWNA)

On the occasion of the Polish Asphalt Pavement Association's (PSWNA) 25th anniversary, we celebrate their commitment to advancing the asphalt industry in Poland. This milestone not only marks years of achievement but also highlights PSWNA's vital role in fostering innovation and expertise within the sector.

We extend our warmest gratitude to Ewelina Karp-Kręglicka and the PSWNA team for their invitation to join the anniversary celebration in Warsaw. It was a privilege to stand alongside our Polish colleagues to recognise this important chapter in PSWNA's journey and their contributions to the industry.

Upper row: PSWNA 25 years

Middle row and bottom row: Asphaltica











EAPA Committees meetings

EAPA held the Autumn 2024 Committee meetings on 8-10 October 2024.

Day 1 – Health, Safety and Environment (HSE)

The agenda of the first day covered topics related to Health, Safety and Environment. HSE Committee Chairman, Mats Wendel, opened the meeting and after the initial formalities, gave way to the reports from different EAPA Task Forces.

The TF Decarbonisation continues active despite the recent publication of the Decarbonisation Roadmap. An extended version of the document was discussed and approved. This contains the justification of the published figures, methodology, hypothesis, data collection, background data, etc. In addition, the TF will continue updating the Roadmap when necessary and monitoring the adoption of decarbonisation technologies over the coming years.

A new TF was also created to deeply develop the topic of odour management at asphalt plants and job sites. The first kick-off meeting was held and the group decided to start working on a document with: (1) introduction to the topic of odour management (subjective issues, test methods, etc.); (2) information about how different countries are dealing with this topic (regulations, policies, etc.); and (3) compendium of best practices and recommendations to minimise noise emissions and discomfort in neighbouring communities.

Among other topics, the Committee discussed the new position of the ECHA's Borderline Working Group (BWG), which drafted a paper where they propose to revise this general understanding and start considering recovered aggregates as "substances" or "mixtures", when over the last years, recovered aggregates had been considered "articles" under REACH regulation and, consequently exempted to registration. EAPA joined efforts with other associations (e.g. Aggregate Europe, Concrete Europe, EUR10, European Waste Management Association, and the International Recycling Federation) to produce a legal report, a position paper and an impact assessment paper defending that recovered aggregates must remain being considered as "articles". These documents were submitted to the CARACAL group of the European Commission and presented at a meeting in July 2024.

In a similar line, EAPA was also involved in consultations with the European Commission related to the creation of new EU-wide end-of-waste criteria for different waste streams, including site-won asphalt. The final report was published by the Commission in July 2024 classifying asphalt as a stream with "average potential". This is one level lower than other higher potential CDW streams, such as aggregates, concrete, fired clay bricks and gypsum. Nevertheless, the report also states that "an important observation was that for inert waste streams there is potential for grouping, e.g. aggregates, asphalt, fired clay bricks and concrete, in future European EoW criteria". Hence, EAPA will continue following up further developments and exchanging with the European Commission when necessary.

After the consultation to EAPA national associations carried out over the previous year, an internal report was also created with information on stack emissions, including regulatory limits, average values, etc. in different European countries.

After these and other topics, Mats Wendel was re-elected as Chairman of the HSE Committee for the next period 2024-2026.



Day 2 – Technical topics

The second day, corresponding to the technical topics, was opened by the Chairman of the Technical Committee, Knut Johannsen.

The agenda started with the report from the EAPA Task Force on Warm Mix Asphalt (WMA). After the publication of the documents on WMA for Road Administrations and Industry in June 2024, the group discussed how to further develop this topic. Members decided to create a guidance document based on the lessons learned in Germany and The Netherlands while transitioning to a 100% production of WMA. The group also decided to organise a physical Workshop in 2025, in which administrations, contractors, producers, universities, etc. can share their experiences on this.

The Group also discussed the status of the revision of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) and the novelties included in the final document, which was finally adopted in November 2024.

This was followed by the updates on the latest developments of the CPR Acquis revision system and CEN Standardisation Committees (especially related to bituminous mixtures, bituminous binders and aggregates).

Other technical topics were discussed. Some of these were the use of WMA in different European countries, the durability of different types of asphalt pavements or the potential bias in dynamic test methods (e.g. ring and ball) after the ban of mercury thermometers.

Another topic that has been recently gaining importance in the TC agenda is "resilience", a concept that can be applied to pavements (e.g. resilience against flooding, climate change, etc.) as well as to the sector itself (resilience against disruptions in supply chains, changes in regulations, etc.). EAPA published in June 2024 a Position Paper on it and it is expecting to establish further dialogue with policymakers and road administrations to understand the views for the future and how asphalt industry can contribute to meet their objectives.

Committee Members also proposed and discussed potential topics to be included in the agenda of the next joint EAPA-Eurobitume HSE/TC meeting which will be held in January 2025.

After the meeting, the committee members visited the Autoworld Museum in Brussels.









Day 3 – Asphalt 4.0

The Chairman of the Asphalt 4.0 Committee Juan José Potti, opened the third day of the meeting with an agenda focused on the new digital technologies, which are transforming the asphalt paving sector.

Slovenko Henigman presented the main outcomes of the 3rd edition of the International Conference on Asphalt 4.0, organised in September 2025 in Ljubljana. The group was very satisfied with the growth of this conference in only 3 years. For example, in this edition the Conference provided by the first time an exhibition area for companies.

The Committee advanced on the EAPA document on Asphalt 4.0, which is close to be finalised for publication. The document not only provides a definition of the term Asphalt 4.0 but gives a compilation of digital technologies, tools and smart management systems which are transforming the supply chain of asphalt at every stage (including after road delivery) increasing customer satisfaction and company reputation.

The group also agreed that although the communication has been improved in the last years, the capacity to mobilise people towards the adoption of Asphalt 4.0 technologies remains limited. The digital transition of the sector is necessary not only because of the proven direct benefits it provides but also because it is crucial to develop a sector, which is attractive to young talent. For this reason, the EAPA document on Asphalt 4.0 will be considered as a simple first step. The group started drafting the transformative strategy for the coming years, with the target on different levels (i.e. students, lecturers, industry, administrations, etc.).

Before finishing the meeting, Juan José Potti was re-elected as Chairman of the Asphalt 4.0 Committee.

EAPA Executive Committee and Directors' Group meeting

The latest EAPA combined Executive Committee and Directors' Group meeting (ExCo/DIR) was held on 23 and 24 October 2024 in Dublin (Ireland).

As usual, the ExCo/DIR meeting featured a round table, allowing directors from each of the EAPA national member associations to share the latest news and developments from their respective countries.
Discussions covered the finances for 2024 and 2025, and EAPA Secretary Carsten Karcher along with Technical Director Breixo Gomez reported on current legislation, consultations, policies, initiatives, and activities in Brussels.

The Executives and Directors were also informed about the activities carried out by the Secretariat with other institutions, such as the European Commission (e.g. for the consultation on EU-wide end-of-waste criteria), Eurobitume (joint technical and executive meetings), GAPA partners (annual meeting) and CEDR and UEPave (joint internal webinar), among others.

The Members also shaped the EAPA strategies on communication, innovation, dissemination and education. These include the organisation of the European Road Maintenance Forum, the next International Conference on Asphalt 4.0 (in 2025), the next E&E Event (in 2026), the EAPA Awards 2025 and a series of other initiatives related to the communication strategy or how to attract talent and workforce to the asphalt sector.

Finally, Executives and Directors received the report from the HSE, TC and Asphalt 4.0 Committees. These included the workplans and priorities for the season 2024-2025.



EAPA Communication Committee Meeting

The second half of day 3 featured EAPA's 18th Communication Committee meeting, bringing together members both in person and online. The meeting celebrated recent accomplishments and set clear goals for future progress, with some updates from other committees past the previous days shared with this group for input or support.

Secretary General Carsten Karcher and Communications and Marketing Manager Meghaa Vandana opened the meeting by sharing updates on previously set goals and providing digital communication analytics and insights. Discussions covered the theme and guest lineup for the second season of the podcast, progress in the Women in Asphalt initiative, and the success of EAPA webinars, including the recent Asphalt 4.0 webinar, which garnered over 4,000 views. Plans for future workshops and collaborations were also explored, along with new ideas to further strengthen communication strategies.

Looking ahead to 2025, the committee discussed several exciting developments. These included a redesign of the EAPA website with improved features, updates to the Asphalt Advantages website, and a revitalisation of the popular #AsphaltHeroes campaign, which highlights the diverse roles within the asphalt sector to enhance visibility and engagement. Plans for the next European Road Maintenance Forum, featuring expanded focus areas and new partnerships, were also on the agenda, along with plans for the release of the next edition of the GAPA (Global Asphalt Pavement Alliance) Magazine.

The meeting concluded with members sharing updates and the unanimous election of Meghaa Vandana as the new Committee Chair. EAPA remains committed to driving strategic campaigns and digital transformation to highlight the asphalt industry's sustainability and innovation. Through these efforts, the organisation aims to reach wider audiences, attract young talent, and promote diversity in the sector.

The next Communication Committee meeting will take place on 11 March 2025, offering an opportunity to co-create and refine strategies that will shape the future of the industry.



Want to be part of the EAPA Community with 16 national associations and 30 equipment and material suppliers?

A strong community is a strong advocate!
Together we are louder!

CONNECT

Webinar European Paving Industries Coping with the Green Deal | Replay

On 26 November 2024, the Conference of European Directors of Roads (CEDR), in collaboration with EAPA and EUPAVE, hosted an internal webinar (for members only) exploring how the main stakeholders of the European paving sector are navigating the challenges and opportunities of the European Green Deal.

The session delved into the transformations these industries are undergoing to align with the Green Deal's environmental objectives. Attendees gained insights into the strategies and innovations paving the way for a more sustainable future in road construction and maintenance across Europe.

The webinar started with the introductory and welcoming words from CEDR Secretary-General Steve Phillips. Then, after the presentation of EUPAVE Managing Director Luc Rens, EAPA Technical Director Breixo Gomez presented the "Facts and figures of the European Asphalt Industry towards the Green Deal objectives".

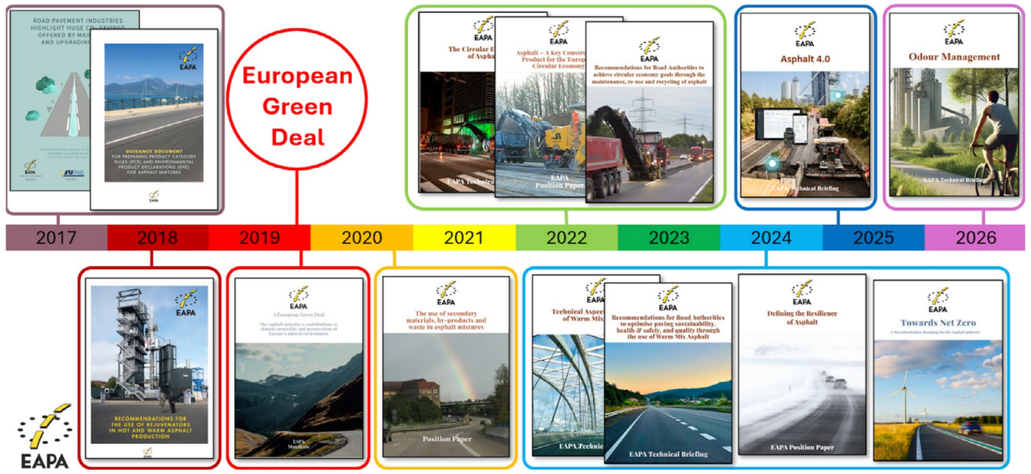
During his presentation, Breixo showed the response of EAPA to the European Green Deal, including all the publications released by EAPA on different aspects of sustainability in the latest years.
Then, he presented the EAPA Decarbonisation Roadmap published in June 2024 and a study conducted by Routes de France in collaboration with the Puy-de-Dôme Department, which aims to quantify, over a reference life span, the effect of pavement maintenance on GHG emissions.

After all this information, EAPA encouraged Member States and Local and Regional Road Authorities to embrace good road asset management strategies, based on adequate road maintenance, and which consider the CO_2 effect in their road maintenance plans.

EAPA also encouraged stakeholder to continue discussions on these and other topics, such as the durability of asphalt pavements, resilience, identification of megatrends in the sector towards increased productivity and digitalisation.

You can watch the webinar and access EAPA's presentation from the webinar here.

Subscribe now to EAPA newsletter and be notified about upcoming webinars, events, publications and other updates.





Upcoming Conferences & Congresses

NAPA Annual Meeting

When: 2-5 February 2025
Where: Grand Wailea Maui, Hawaii, USA
Main Topics:
The NAPA Annual Meeting provides the latest tools and insights to help you achieve your goals in the asphalt pavement industry. With general sessions, workshops, committee meetings, and invaluable networking opportunities, this event is where the industry gathers to set its future.

Website: https://www.asphaltpavement.org/programs/napa-events/napa-annual-meeting

International Seminar on Asphalt

When: 8-9 May 2025
Where: Opatija, Croatia
Main Topics:
- Innovation and Technology in Road Construction
- Sustainability and Decarbonisation
- Asphalt Recycling and Material Advances
- Road Design and Construction Practices
- Public Procurement and Industry Collaboration
- Road Usage and Traffic Impacts

Website: https://www.h-a-d.hr/9-medun-arodna-konferencija-asfaltni-kolnici-2025/a1165

Hungarian Asphalt Days

When: 18-19 February 2025
Where: To be announced
Main Topics:
The Hungarian Asphalt Pavement Association (HAPA), established in 1992, is a leading professional organization dedicated to promoting excellence in asphalt production and road construction in Hungary. As a full member of the European Asphalt Pavement Association (EAPA), HAPA focuses on advancing sustainable practices, advocating for industry-friendly regulations, and fostering innovation and research in the asphalt sector.

Website: www.hapa.hu

AV'25

When: 25-26 November 2025
Where: Budweis, Czech Republic
Main Topics:
- Innovation of materials, new technologies and design of asphalt pavement constructions.
- Trends in construction, management and maintenance of pavements.
- Sustainability, circular economy, digitalisation.

Website: https://svsweb.cz/asfaltove-vozovky/2025/papers-for-the-conference-proceedings/

EAPA Meetings & dates

2025	
4, 5 and 6 March 2025	EAPA Spring Committee Meetings
11 March	EAPA Communications Meeting
19 March	EAPA ExCo and DIR Meeting
20 March	GCA Meeting
3 April	IRMD (International Road Maintenance Day) Workshop
2026	
11 and 12 June	E&E Event 2026

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EAPA has currently released issue 55 of its Magazine. It started out as a Newsletter and grew out to becoming a full Magazine (30+ pages) over the years, as the popularity and number of readers grew. The EAPA Magazine goes out to the EAPA Members and Asphalt friends that have subscribed for EAPA information. The Magazine is sent via email as digital document to almost 2,100+ subscribers. The Magazine is also placed on the EAPA website and information about the Magazine is shared on EAPA's social media channels such as Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook. The Magazine is free of charge for the readers.

Only EAPA Members and members of EAPA members have the opportunity to advertise in the magazine. The size of the magazine is 210 x 297 mm and you can purchase full page or half page adverts.

For more information and costs please contact our communication team at communications@eapa.org



Do not miss the opportunity to include your ads in the EAPA Magazine and reach almost 2,100 subscribers in the paving sector around the world!

Colophon

This magazine is published by the European Asphalt Pavement Association, dedicated to the asphalt and road infrastructure industry.

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HAD - Croatian Asphalt Association	German Asphalt Pavement Association	EBA - Norwegian Contractors Association	ESTICA - Estonian Infra Construction Association
HAPA - Hungarian Asphalt Pavement Association	IAPA - Irish Asphalt Pavement Association	Infra Contractors Association, Finland	MPA - Mineral Products Association, UK
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ZAS - Slovenian Asphalt Pavement Association			

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