



18th EPA Congress and Exhibition

Rotterdam, 20 – 22 September 2017

Parking in the City Lounge, Powered by VEXPAN



European Parking industry at the crossroad of future developments

by Peter Martens, Chair of the Policy and Strategy Committee of the European Parking Association

How should we anticipate on the economic and technical developments: taking initiatives as an early adapter or should we wait and see for a moment to where it goes? The upcoming EPA congress in Rotterdam is the opportunity to make up our minds. Not just sitting back listening to the “Gurus”, but developing insights where to go in the next five years on topics like:

- Decriminalizing and digitization of parking in public domain
- Use of parking data and privacy issues
- Electric vehicles: charging at parking facilities
- Impact of connected and autonomous vehicles on parking

The congress will be facilitated to enable discussions with speakers, based on the MFAQ’s (Most Frequently Asked Questions). Audience will be turned into active participants, facilitated by our congress moderator Gerrit Heijkoop, also known as “Mr Red Sneakers”. He gave the Dutch parking congress 2016 a very inspiring touch, which every participant in that congress still remembers.....

After the opening of the congress the following key notes will be presented:

- **José Manuel Viegas** (former Secretary General of the International Transport Forum at OECD), on “Perspectives for parking going through the urban mobility radical transformation”
- **Erik Jonnaert** (Secretary General of the European Automobile Manufacturers Association), on “Impact of automotive developments for the parking industry”,
- **Pex Langenberg** (Deputy Mayor Rotterdam) explaining “City Lounge” concept for sustainable urban development and mobility.

After the Tea-break our moderator Gerrit Heijkoop will present feedback and questions to be addressed in the sessions the following days of the congress. At the end of day one the European Parking Awards will be presented with brief presentations of all nominees in the five categories. All

nominated parking projects are described individually elsewhere in the Parking Trend magazines, to be published before the congress.

On the second day a combination of plenary key note presentations, more in-depth parallel sessions and round-table discussions are scheduled. For Thursday following key notes are scheduled:

- **Guy Le Bras**, General Director at GART on the role of local authorities in transport & parking policies in the new French parking reform
- **Frank De Moor**, CEO Q-Park explaining “A bright future for parking”, despite all hypes concerning impact of autonomous vehicles.

Parallel sessions with in-depth discussions will be held around the themes “Parking Today”, “Technology & Innovation”, “Technology” and “E-charging & parking”, along different countries’ perspectives with selected contributions, based on the earlier Call for Papers. At the end of the day all contributions and comments will be presented and discussed by all moderators, to provide all congress participants a complete overview.

Also Friday features some interesting presentations and discussions:

- Presentations about collaboration of the automotive sector and parking sector on how to handle autonomous parking in car parks in the future and the transition for today to a fully automated future. There will be technical and operational challenges.
- A panel with representatives from cities and technical suppliers on the role of smart parking in discussions about intelligent transport systems and smart cities in EPA’s contribution to the European Mobility Week.

It will be interesting to see the impact on parking policies and implementation of innovations in generally sprawled US-cities and many compact European cities. Following the concept of the “City Lounge”, all activities, including the reception on Wednesday evening in the Rotterdam Maritime Museum and the congress dinner on Thursday at the historical St Laurens Church will be within walking distance leaving maximum flexibility to combine business and pleasure in the city of Rotterdam. This is the real implementation of the “Park once” concept.

The link on the EPA-website www.epacongress.eu is open for registrations and hotel reservations can be made through the same channel. It is recommended to register soon, to take advantage of the best hotel options within the Rotterdam City Lounge, at walking distance from all activities!

We have three months in advance the registrations rolling in from congress participants, and we are preparing for a full house.

The exhibitors are steadily increasing but still spaces available!

The program offers many opportunities to combine the congress with exhibition visits. Lunch buffet and after-congress drinks will be served at the exhibition area to support network opportunities of different players in the parking world.

With still three months to go, 60 top exhibitors are registered for a space with an “all inclusive” package including a rental system stand with carpeting, wall panels, bar table group, counter, power

& lighting (incl. consumption), company name board and cleaning. The package also includes one full congress ticket (incl. evening events) and four additional exhibitor passes.

New for this congress/exhibition are the opportunities for product presentations in the “Exhibitors speakers Corner” scheduled for the Thursday afternoon: an excellent opportunity to target a wider audience than just those visiting the exhibitor’s booth.

VEXPAN, the Dutch parking platform and national host for the EPA congress, facilitates a central meeting plaza at the exhibition area.

All information and registration form can be found on the website www.epacongress.eu or from Katerina Hodinova katerina.hodinova@mesago.com.

Link to download photographs, logos and further information on the event:

https://www.mesago.de/en/EPA/For_journalists/Press_Photos/presse-download.htm