



Statement of the 19th EPA Congress

The 19th EPA Congress, held in Malaga, showed remarkably the further development of parking since the last Congress in Rotterdam:

- The environmental question is the overriding factor in determining the absolute need to drive for optimising the transport modes in the urban mobility systems.
- Future innovative mobility services will be driven less by improvements in single transport modes than by integration. What is needed is a system level collaboration.
- The parking industry is enlarging its focus to the management of vehicles.
- We are no longer discussing, whether electric mobility will be the concept of the future, today it is just a question of the speed and impact of the implementation.
- 80 percent of the exhibitors at this year's exhibition were new, demonstrating the innovative mood in the industry. Also the "flagship" of parking management systems showed more digital solutions than hardware.
- Municipalities did great progress in managing the curb. There is a common understanding that smarter management of the on-street zones will be crucial for cities in transforming to "smarter cities".
- At the 4th meeting of the Global Parking Association Leaders Summit (GPALS) we discussed the growing importance of regulations for car spaces for disabled people. We came to the conclusion that availability and access ability are far more important to disabled drivers than the fact that these spaces should be provided for free.
- Parking and logistics are getting closer to each other.
- Despite technology, standards and infrastructure, everything is focused to meet the consumers demand.

In preparation of this year's Congress, the EPA prepared and distributed a Position Paper, which includes the key messages, of how the parking sector can contribute to improving mobility:

- SMARTER Parking is key to the reduction of pollution and congestion in urban areas;
- SMARTER Parking contributes to sustainable mobility by facilitating the modal shift to public transport and cleaner mobility solutions;
- SMARTER Parking contributes to a better use of urban space by supporting curbside management and offering parking service in structures;
- SMARTER Parking contributes to the attractiveness of city centers by managing integrated Parking in urban areas.

The 19th EPA Congress & Exhibition proved once more not only the transformatory power of our sector, but also the willingness to contribute to making cities better places.

The EPA Board wants to thank ASESGA and the City of Malaga for their great efforts in making this Congress possible and for being wonderful hosts!

Malaga, September 20, 2019