

Inauguration speech of new EAPA President Dr. Juan José Potti, ASEFMA during EAPA General Council Assembly on 18 May 2021



Dear EAPA Members,

I would like to start by thanking to the past president of EAPA my dear friend François Chaignon.

I think it is fair to acknowledge the work he has done in the last two years, the situations he has resolved, the new EAPA initiatives carried out during his tenure, the excellent transition that has occurred since the departure of Egbert Beuving, the consolidation of our Secretary General Carsten Karcher during these years and the incorporation of Breixo Gomez. All this in a difficult economic context, aggravated by the pandemic, but which for EAPA continues to offer an economic financial situation of tranquillity and stability.

On the other hand, I would like to report something that perhaps most of you do not know. Asefma was created one year before EAPA was established exactly 49 years ago. Moreover, Asefma was created because Spain wanted to be part of the founding countries of EAPA.

And Asefma was one of the founders of EAPA in 1973.

48 years have passed, and I am proud to be the first Spanish president of EAPA. Beyond my personal satisfaction, I want to express today Asefma's satisfaction for being one of those founders and today being able to reach the Presidency of this great association, EAPA.

I will work as I always have, providing new ideas to EAPA and developing strategies that can be of use to all EAPA partners.

I sincerely believe that the sector needs to change and adapt quickly to the changes that society demands of us. It is necessary to make decisive progress in the digital transformation, relying on inno-

vation and with actions that facilitate the circular economy and sustainability.

I finish with a reflection of which I am firmly convinced. For many years and in many countries the objective of our activity was construction and within this concept we offered our construction materials such as bituminous mixtures.

In the last 10 years in many countries the road network has been built and extended and our main interest is to show that this road network must be preserved and updated to meet new demands and, of course, to reduce the emissions of the vehicles that circulate on it.

Well, from my point of view, the electric car, the autonomous car, the connected vehicles etc. and new situations force us to consider a much more important factor than construction and conservation. We, the paving sector, must be relevant actors in the development of mobility, of new mobility and from my point of view we can only achieve this through commitment to digitization, innovation and sustainability.

Exciting years await us. You can be sure of all my support and engagement and I thank you in advance for your efforts and collaboration.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Juan José Potti

