

THE WORLD HVAC CONGRESS

Speech by L. CASSIMAN

A small country and a still smaller organization as the ATIC announcing it would take the possibility to organize the last world congress of this millennium.

After all it shall not astonish you we baptized our congress CLIMA 2000. Nearly forty years ago our country and Brussels were once the seat of the first HVAC congress hold after the second war. Since then times change thoroughly and our capital too. The congress building in which you are today was inaugurated the same year. Thousand of office buildings made their appearance in the city and changes the outlook completely. Today Brussels is the capital of the european community and this international administration is now more important as our national offices. Numerous foreign societies have been attracted to this new activity boom, but still the city did not loose its ancient and historical character. In today's period congressing is in and succeed in a still faster rhythm. If there is organising the first congress in 1958 could be considered zero the situation is total different today. So we had to work hard and continuously over 4 years to realize our targets. First reach as many people as possible in the business, the personal, the university and office world. Second increase the interest of the conference in changing deeply the system of exchanging information. Probably you remarked we changed the traditional process presenting the papers. In fact we are more interested in your personal reactions, questions and opinions as in the non-personal transfer of a topic. Reporters will present the topics of a session. Your questions are attended if possible before each session and being able we hope to organize more animated and living discussions. At the end of each session we like with you to debate around its contents. Instead of holding simultaneous sessions in different rooms we remain together during the whole conference time because we think this technic will excite and fix constantly the interest of each participator on the presented topics. Keeping the subscription fees as democratic as possible included all the surrounding, costs, mail, tools e.g., did we succeed, I hear asking you, more as 400 subscribers responding to our appeal coming from the five continents and representing about 50 different nations. After a strong selection we retained finally about 250 high value papers. Due to respect budget control we could reduce substantially the participation cost. At the end of the conference we will evaluate together if we have been successful in our second target.

It is for me today a unique opportunity to thank all those who collaborated with me to bring us where we are now. All the members of the organizing committee and more special its driving forces Joris MAMPAEY and Henry ROBA as well as our devoted secretary Lady EGLI, our technical committee under the expert leadership of Jean LEBRUN, the REHVA ??? board, the ambassador's committee, the CIB, Chase as IBE for the efforts they undertook to emphasize the interest of the conference all over Europe and the world. Thank you for your continuous support.

Our major sponsors, ACV, ABB, Natural Gas and Febetec as well as the European Community by the way of ??? for its efficient and appreciated financial help. The long list of minor sponsors making it possible to offer you as a gift a number of social events around our congress, and all those I couldn't mention by name as the silent workers contributing to the success of CLIMA 2000.

Finally I welcome you all, subscribers, authors, committee members, students and the belgian and international press. I hope you will return each to your country enriched with new experience and enthusiasm prepared to fly in the face of the challenges the following century will bring to us in the HVAC branch.

I declare open this mondial forum on HVAC and ask, before giving the word to Mr. GOMEZ, President of REHVA, that Jean LEBRUN who want to give you some information about the procedure he wish to follow for the first session takes only some minutes.