

Statement of the 20th EPA Congress

The 20th EPA Congress, held in Brussels, has demonstrated the parking industry's commitment to the "EU Green deal" and to developing and implementing innovative solutions to meet the many challenges faced by the parking, mobility and last mile logistics sectors.

- The EPA's members and the wider parking ecosystem have the expertise to respond to many of the key objectives in "Turning An Urgent Challenge Into a Unique Opportunity". As President L. Bannerman said at the opening session: *"We fully recognize the importance of the EU Green Deal; not only do we embrace it but it will be our driving force for the next decades"*.
- The different sessions of the congress displayed the innovative management solutions, advanced use of data and digital technology and operational excellence of that our industry deploys in the service of local communities across the EU and further.
- Integrated parking and curbside management have strong links and interactions with logistics, freight, traffic management and congestion regulation, as well as new mobility solutions. We are part of the solution to respond to the increasing environmental awareness new forms of mobility services, e-shopping, ... that have changed our living behavior.
- EV charging points provided by parking operators can play a major role in achieving CO² neutrality. We will contribute actively to the installation by 2025 of the part of the required 1 million public recharging points, in the parking infrastructures to serve the 13 million zero and low emission vehicles expected on the EU's roads. However, the EV market is still very immature and parking operators must decide their role in the value chain.
- The Alliance for Parking Data Standard (APDS) is now the strongly aligned basis for both the CEN TS 16157-6:2022 (Intelligent transport systems -- DATEX II data exchange specifications for traffic management and information – Part 6 - Parking publications) and ISO 5260-1 standards. The APDS is thus de facto the global standard for parking data. Data is key to the future of our sector and the integration with MAAS. We are convinced that adopting the APDS standards will make our work easier and improve the service we give to our customers and allow us to interact and interoperate with the other communities in the mobility and logistics sectors.
- At the 5th meeting of the Global Parking Association Leaders Summit (GPALS) we discussed the impact of the Pandemic on the Parking & Mobility Industry and how the Parking & Mobility players have shown their incredible resilience and transformational capacity to face the new challenges: curbside management, EV solutions, data management, HR issues...
- The EPA expert committee revised ESPA certificates criteria, including new standards (e.g electrification of cars, EV Charging points, car & bike sharing, digital, mobility hubs...) to follow the mobility evolution
- More than 550 delegates from 32 countries, 70 exhibitors and more than 55 speakers took part in this 20th EPA Congress, with a strong contribution from EU commission representatives. 7 EPA awards (among 18 shortlisted projects) celebrated our industry's incredible capacity for innovation in each of the five award categories.

The 20th EPA Congress & Exhibition proved once more and today more than ever, the importance of our sector's expertise in the contributions needed to respond to the challenging objectives of the Green Deal as a key player in today's modern urbanized world.

The EPA Board wants to thank the Belgian Parking association and the City of Brussels for their great efforts in making this Congress possible and for being wonderful hosts!

Bruxelles, September 14, 2022