

CLIMA 2022 ROTTERDAM

Update No. 1

These are unusual times. Nevertheless, TVVL and the CLIMA 2022 organising committee have started preparation work for REHVA's 14th HVAC World Congress CLIMA 2022 to be held May 22-25 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Three members of the organising committee are interviewed to give a short update about the status quo. These three persons are: **Olaf Oosting** (TVVL board representative), **Lada Hensen Centnerová** (congress vice-president), and **Atze Boerstra** (congress president).

What kind of preparation work have you been involved in over the last couple of months?

Atze: 'One of the main issues was the congress location. We have been in close contact with the Rotterdam Ahoy Convention Center (RACC) since autumn 2019. Their new entrance building is more or less ready now and can be visited, virtually, here: <https://lichtstorm.com/pano/ahoy/>. We have not signed the final contract yet as with the corona pandemic things are far from normal. Luckily, they have been ultra-flexible with us. They, like us, are determined to make a success of the CLIMA congress, no matter what.

Any ideas on how the corona pandemic will impact the 2022 edition of the CLIMA congress?

Atze: 'Apart from all the impracticalities and uncertainties caused by COVID-19: this pandemic has, of course, led to all kinds of new questions about the transmission of airborne infectious diseases that are of utmost importance to our field. So, naturally, during the congress, we will schedule an ample amount of time to discuss and learn about HVAC systems and other building services to help limit the transmission of corona (and other) viruses in buildings. I am pretty sure that at least one of our keynote speakers will talk about this.'

Representatives of the CLIMA 2022 organising committee



**ATZE
BOERSTRA**

Congress President TVVL board representative

**OLAF
OOSTING**

**LADA HENSEN
CENTNEROVÁ**

Congress Vice-president

Olaf: ‘Of course one could look at the pandemic as an ultimate threat to events that involve bringing lots of people from all over the world in close contact with each other for several days. Personally, I also see the present situation as an interesting challenge for our organizing team. The next CLIMA congress could be extra exciting as, for the first time in REHVA’s history, we are now forced to combine physical and virtual attendance. It won’t be easy, such a hybrid formula, but I am confident that we will manage to find a way.’

Any ideas yet about the advantages and disadvantages of such a hybrid conference form?

Olaf: ‘One huge advantage is that we might have a much larger audience than the 700 to 1000 or so persons that usually attend a CLIMA congress. Think of all the people who normally don’t find the time or resources to travel to REHVA events. With a hybrid format, they could log in from far away to attend virtually. At the same time, the present pandemic, of course, brings uncertainties about the number of people still be willing to join us in the live event, face to face in May 2022. All of this also largely depends on what will happen in the coming months in terms of possible COVID-19 cures and vaccines.’

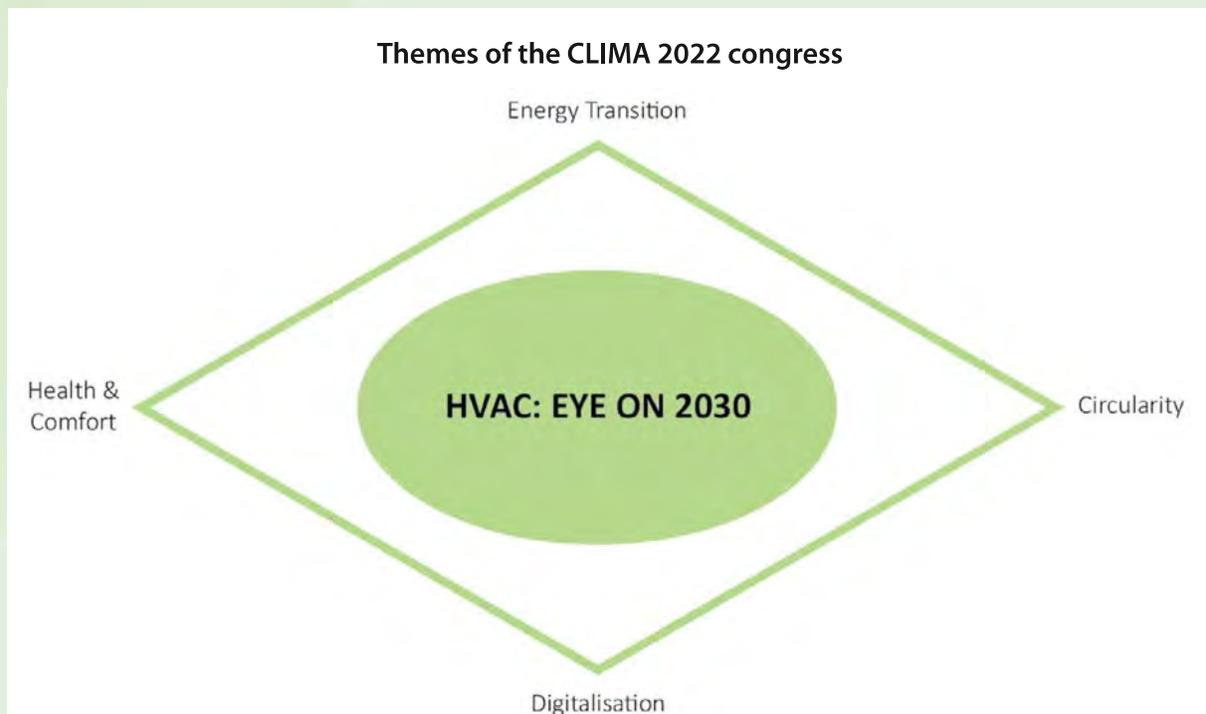
Lada: ‘A congress, of course, is about meeting each other, but it is also about exchanging research results,

and this is something that at least to a certain extent can also be done successfully with virtual presentations and workshops. Personally, I have already seen several good examples in this context (e.g. the recent Indoor Air conference in Republic of Korea).

Which are the central topics of Clima 2022?

Atze: ‘Our core topics are Health (health & comfort), Energy, Circularity and Digitalisation. These are four aspects which, in my opinion, already have a substantial impact on how we design, build and maintain our HVAC systems. I am very much looking forward to sharing the latest research related to these core topics with each other and discussing how to stay on top in our field. Note, by the way, that each day of the conference will be dedicated to one of the topics, at least in the morning programs and the keynote presentations.’

Olaf: ‘I think one of the biggest challenges will be not to focus on just one of these aspects over the coming years (e.g. just on health because we want to keep the indoor air free of viruses). Instead, we should find a way to simultaneously improve the health, energy and circularity performance of our building services. Digitalisation can help us improving the integration of the other three topics. And that is exactly what we will be focusing on, integrally, during the congress.’



How about the committees, are they in place already?

Lada: We have a tandem which is chairing the Scientific Committee. Prof. Laure Itard from TU Delft is the chair, and I (from TU Eindhoven) am her co-chair. We invited 12 Dutch academics and professionals to join us in the Dutch part of the scientific committee. For each of the conference's topics, we have 'a tandem' of an academic and an HVAC professional who will together coordinate their subject field. This way, we are sure to create a challenging link between science

and high-level practice. All other committee members have their own tasks. Soon we will start inviting international colleagues to join the *international* scientific committee that will help us to integrate other (inter) national views and ideas.

Atze: Apart from this we are in the process of setting up an International Advisory Committee, whose task will be to advise us on broader questions relating to the organisation and program of such an international congress.



Rotterdam's city centre attracts shoppers.

When will the call for abstracts and workshops go out?

Lada: ‘We have adjusted the original schedule a little due to COVID-19. Nobody knows what will happen the coming months, whether, for example, we will have an effective vaccine half a year from now, whether CLIMA participants will be able to come to Rotterdam without any travel restrictions or if they will prefer to join us online. That is why we have decided to set the deadline for submission of abstracts and workshops to just ten months before the conference. This will also provide everyone with better opportunities to submit information about the most recent advances!’

For more information, see the schedule below:

Call for abstracts	1 March 2021
Submission deadline for abstracts	15 September 2021
Acceptance of Abstracts	8 October 2021
Deadline for full paper submission	10 January 2022
Acceptance of papers	15 February 2022

Is it still possible to join as a sponsor?

Olaf: ‘Via our TVVL channels but also via REHVA’s Supporters Committee on behalf of TVVL, I have approached sponsors with the help of Juan Traversi and Anita Derjanecz, amongst others.’

We have already received several positive reactions and are looking for additional sponsors for the different topics. If you want to be a main sponsor, please contact us quickly. If your company feels hesitant because of the COVID situation, please contact me to discuss the possible options. I, Olaf Oosting, am available at ooo@valstar-simonis.nl

Explain in a few words why we should come to Rotterdam in 2022?

Lada: ‘I am confident that we will come up with a very interesting program, with enough time to exchange the

latest research, interactive workshops and a line-up with very inspiring keynote speakers. That alone should be a good reason to come to Rotterdam or join us online and attend CLIMA 2022.’

Olaf: ‘As Organising Committee we will discuss the impact of the pandemic during every meeting. We are doing everything we can to welcome at least 700 in-person visitors at the congress. The Netherlands in general and Rotterdam, in particular, are very well equipped for a congress like CLIMA 2022. Not just in terms of international accessibility (e.g. train and plane connections) and the high quality of our service industry (e.g. hotels and restaurants). But also in more (multi)cultural terms and organisational experience. Just come over to Rotterdam and enjoy our beautiful city!’

Atze: ‘Some of my most beautiful professional memories are directly related to the 50 or so conferences and congresses that I have attended so far. Ideally, events like these are about quality science and new ideas but ALSO about spending good time together and making new friends. So we will not just focus on valuable content but also on what we call ‘the feelgood vibe’. I promise that if you do decide to come to Rotterdam, you will most certainly return home with some good memories of your own and a smile on your face.’

For more information, please subscribe to our newsletter on clima2022.org and we will keep you updated on the 14th REHVA World Congress CLIMA 2022. ■



Eye on
2030

Towards digitalized, healthy,
circular and energy efficient HVAC

REHVA 14th HVAC World Congress
22nd - 25th May, Rotterdam, The Netherlands