



News from the European Association of Abnormal Road Transport and Mobile Cranes (estaeurope.eu)

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■ To find out more, see: [www.estaeurope.eu/Supporter](http://www.estaeurope.eu/Supporter)

**COVID-19 UPDATES**

ESTA has created a new section on its website for announcements regarding Covid-19 and links to other useful websites.

**CONTACT ESTA**

For more information about ESTA and its work, see the association's website at: [www.estaeurope.eu/summit](http://www.estaeurope.eu/summit) or contact: Caroline van Geest, ESTA office manager, on +31 (0) 71 572 4705 or [officemanager@estaeurope.eu](mailto:officemanager@estaeurope.eu) or Graham Anderson, ESTA communications officer, on +44 (0) 1865 318123 or [andersonmedia@btinternet.com](mailto:andersonmedia@btinternet.com)

# Van Noort warns on future skills shortages



Wouter van Noort

Wouter van Noort, ESTA Section Cranes president and European managing director at Mammoet, has warned of the long-term dangers in losing skilled employees during Covid-19.

He made a strong plea, saying, "As the crane industry we are, of course, largely dependent on what our clients are producing or building. As a result of the crisis and the subsequent lack of production, the understandable reflex of many companies is to do whatever they can to cut costs.

"But good entrepreneurship requires us to look further than the present month or even year and we should bear in mind that before the pandemic crisis a shortage of personnel was looming that will quickly return after the current health issues have been resolved."

Van Noort continued, "Saying goodbye to well-trained and experienced employees may look a sensible action now but could be dearly regretted in the future."

**BOARD MEMBERS RE-ELECTED**

Three of ESTA's top officials were unanimously re-elected for further three-year terms at the organisation's General Assembly in October.

André Friderici, technical director at Switzerland-based Friderici Spécial, stays on as president of ESTA's section transport; Jens Enggaard, CEO at Danish company BMS, remains as ESTA treasurer; and Stijn Sarens, global key account manager at Belgian multinational firm Sarens, retains his position as ESTA secretary.

## ECOL progress report

The online examination system for ESTA's European Crane Operators Licence project is running in three languages, English, Dutch and Danish. Work is underway on German and Spanish versions.



Three more companies will set up ECOL training centres – Aertssen and Michielsens in Belgium and Manitowoc in Germany – and ongoing talks could see mutual recognition agreements with organisations

in Spain, Germany and the UK.

Two MRAs have been agreed, with TCVT in the Netherlands and BCACS in British Columbia, Canada.

Three training institutes and four examiners from three European countries have joined the scheme and ECOL has carried out 19 examination sessions in four languages. A total of 38 operators have been certified. They were examined in three countries.

## Klijn makes Brexit appeal

ESTA director Ton Klijn has appealed to British companies and associations not to let Brexit divide and weaken European heavy transport and lifting.

Klijn said, "I would like to make a direct appeal to our

British friends. Not all members of ESTA are from countries in the European Union and British companies and organisations have been great supporters of ESTA over the years.

"We have enjoyed and appreciated your involvement and expertise. Despite the political problems, we hope very much that your commitment to our work will continue, so that we can keep learning from each other and make our industry safer and more efficient, to the benefit of all of us."



Ton Klijn, ESTA director

**ESTA'S 2021 AWARDS AND PLANS**



ESTA is currently intending to hold the 2021 section meetings and awards ceremony on Thursday 22 April 2021, during the Intermat exhibition in Paris, France. As usual, the General Assembly will be held on the morning of Friday, 23 April.

The call for entries for ESTA's 2021 Awards will be made soon – so watch this space and start preparing.

Whether we are able to resume holding face-to-face events in 2021 will depend on the rules and restrictions caused by the pandemic. More information will be provided as soon as it is available.