



Brussels/Gdansk, 24 October 2014

At its General Assembly in Gdansk of 10 October 2014, FEANI, the European Federation of National Engineering Associations, unanimously elected, **Prof. Dr. José Manuel VIEIRA** as new President. This is his first mandate for three years as President after having been FEANI Executive Board member since 2011. Prof. J. VIEIRA succeeds Dr. Rafael ALLER from Spain.

In his application speech, Prof. VIEIRA emphasized his support of the FEANI Strategic Plan 2013-2017. He highlighted the FEANI mission of promoting the mobility, the education and the professional development of engineers in order to enhance the visibility of the value of engineers to society. He stressed in particular the importance of addressing issues related to young engineers. Considering that Europe is facing a vocational problem in attracting young people for engineering studies, he warned that this situation can significantly impact European supremacy on innovation and industrial competitiveness. Education and employment of young engineers being a European issue, FEANI and its National Members will plan and implement initiatives advocating the engineering profession, ideally with support of the industry and the European Institutions.

As further cornerstone of his mandate, Prof. J. VIEIRA emphasized the communication with and between the FEANI Member associations, for instance at the recently established “National Member Forum”. He furthermore advocated initiatives to reach utmost visibility for FEANI, for instance through regular conferences being organized in isolation or in connection with other stakeholders.

Prof. J. VIEIRA was born in Braga/Portugal. He is married and has three children. He is a Full Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Minho and Head of Hydraulics Division. He is also Vice President of the Portuguese Association of Engineers (Ordem dos Engenheiros). Prof. J. VIEIRA has more than 35 years' experience from practically all aspects of engineering activities either in the private or in the public sector: be it projects and consultancy, teaching, management or R&D.