

### In Memoriam Gaston Maggetto



With deep sadness we have to announce the death of Professor Gaston Maggetto which has occurred in the night of Friday 9 February 2007. Professor Gaston Maggetto was at the very beginning of EPE. The Association organizes in Europe the largest and most important conference in the field of Power Electronics and its applications. At every issue about 1000 experts in the field meet to discuss on various important future oriented scientific topics. This became possible thanks to the work of Professor Gaston Maggetto.

Professor Gaston Maggetto initiated in the early 80ies at multiple international conferences in Europe (IFAC, ICEM, PCIM, CONUMEL, IEE-PEMD...) the idea to join the efforts in one large, world known event. He has put major efforts in realizing this idea and had contacts with multiple well known scientists: Prof. Werner Leonhard, Prof. Hansruedi Bühler, Prof. John Murphy, Prof. Rex Davis, and many others. As a result, in 1985 the first EPE conference took place in Brussels, chaired by Professor Maggetto. After this event, the conference has been organized every odd year in different European cities: Grenoble, Aachen, Firenze, Brighton, Sevilla, Trondheim, Lausanne, Graz, Toulouse, Dresden. From 1998 on, the central/eastern European countries joined the idea and the PEMC conferences became EPE-PEMC to take place every even year.

In 1988, the EPE Association was officially founded, with first chairman Prof. Maggetto. After his two years term he passed this role to Professor J.C. Sabonnadière and continued to serve until now as the treasurer of the association. He organized the EPE secretariat in Brussels, giving the EPE association a permanent staff to evolve to a professional conference organizer and journal editor on its own. He played a key role in the EPE policy making, with great care for a good balance between financial matters and the meeting of high scientific standards, which is a well known tricky exercise for the non profit international organizations.

During the EPE conference in Dresden in 2005, Professor Maggetto received a special award as key founding member.

6 and 7 February were devoted, as usual in the beginning of February, to the preparation of the next EPE conference, that will take place in September this year, in Aalborg. The absence of Professor Maggetto was very deeply felt by all participants... He left us only a few days after the end of these meeting days as if, with a gesture of an ultimate elegance, he had wanted to take part in his way, for the last time, to the work for EPE.

In the name of the whole scientific community of EPE, members of International Steering Committee, members of Executive Council, the permanent team of the association, we would like to tell you, Professor, quite simply: THANK YOU! Thank you to have been the "pioneer" of a scientific adventure, technological, and human, which led to a very large recognition of the Power Electronics in Europe of course, but also in the rest of the world. EPE Association is today a healthy organization, very professional, universally recognized, which is at the service of a community for the spreading of high level knowledge in the field of power electronics.

Your name, Professor Maggetto will remain for all, everywhere and forever, link with the EPE Association.

A register for messages of sympathy has been opened at the following address  
<http://etecmc10.vub.ac.be/maggetto>