

Dear colleagues and friends

We are just few weeks away from our EAAM annual Symposium. The host facility staff has been working really hard to make sure this will be a memorable Symposium. The Algarve is for sure a fantastic place to meet and spend few days in a warm and welcoming environment.

Our gathering is a unique and fantastic opportunity for like minded people to connect and share experience and knowledge.

The marine ecosystem is under tremendous pressure and most marine mammals are facing significant challenges in their own environment. Marine mammals *in situ* and *ex situ* research, combined with educational and conservation activities are instrumental to change the current aggressive pace at which human activities and habitat changes are interfering with many marine species delicate status.

One of the best way to enhance the work of *in situ* and *ex situ* marine mammal experts is to insure that their knowledge expertise and drive is shared periodically, frequently and especially with the new generation of experts. That is why I believe the Symposium is one of the most powerful tool available to all those that have dedicated their professional career to the study of marine mammals and their environment in order to insure that what we have learned, how we have learned it and why we have learned in the past is constantly passed on to the new generations of scientists and experts. This year will be the 47th Symposium organized by the EAAM and back in 1972, very few could have imagined how much would be shared and how many people would have been influenced because of EAAM.

I hope many of you this year will be able to make this symposium not just a memorable one but especially a great sharing and learning event. I also encourage you all to start working now to push your team mates, your organization leaders, and your colleagues that did not get involve in the symposium this year, to understand why it is extremely important that they do get involve in the near future. Once again thank you to our host facility Zoomarine Portugal their staff and Mr Pedro Lavia, leader of this organization, Elio Vicente that has lead with enthusiasm and dedication the Symposium organization work.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Renato Lenzi', with a stylized, flowing script.

Renato Lenzi
President-elect EAAM