

Your Excellency Prof. Michelberger,
Ladies and Gentlmen,
Colleagues and Colleagues,
Dear Prof. Dr. Egon-Christian von Glasner, Dear Christian and Monica,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the organizers of this wonderful meeting to honour our dear colleague and friend Prof. Dr. Egon-Christian von Glasner. My relation with him started in the technical events area, but later extended to both business and academia involvement. Finally we built up an excellent and very sincere personal friendship.

We did establish our first communication somewhere in 1977 during the preparation of the 1977 Belgrade Conference »Science and Motor Vehicles«. However, the first paper that Prof. Dr. Egon-Christian von Glasner offered to JUMV relates to the conference held in 1979 in Bled, Slovenija. Since then, Prof. von Glasner took part at 10 such conferences, including the last one held about a month ago in Belgrade. Besides, in 1997, together with other two of our very distinguished foreign colleagues and friends, and namely Prof. Pal Michelberger and late Dr. Thomas Peter Newcomb, Prof. Dr. von Glasner was appointed honorary member of JUMV – the Yugoslav Society of Automotive Engineers.

Our first personal contact also happened in connection with the JUMV Conference, but the goal of this meeting was more business oriented – together with my senior Professor Dr. Jovan Todorović, we were discussing possibilities of our Laboratory to perform brake drum and brake lining tests in order to enable better exchange of goods between Mercedes Benz and FFB Company from Belgrade. When we agreed in general, I was the one to contact directly Prof. von Glasner and his staff to collect their know-how in order to do this job. I visited him twice in his office and his home in the early 80's. That is how I know how passionate he is about railway models.

The result of this business oriented cooperation was that our Laboratory become the first one out of Mercedes Benz systems applying its know-how in the area of friction brake testing. Although this kind of cooperation ended many years ago, we at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Belgrade still benefit from the knowledge we gathered throughout this common activities with MB.

Apart from that, Prof. von Glasner also supported the 21st FISITA Congress that was held in Belgrade in 1986, while his company was represented by highly rated persons, and also took one of the most dominant position within the main contributors to the Congress. This cooperation in the area of technical events was then enlarged to the academia area. Prof. von Glasner took a special role at several knowledge innovation courses held in Belgrade. I do personally remember with pleasure his courage to visit Belgrade even in 1991, when the progress of the crisis in former Yugoslavia was more then evident.

Besides, I was very honoured of being invited by him to take part at the SAE Truck and Bus Meeting in 1989 in Charlotte, North Carolina. I do remeber that we were discussing advantages of disc brakes for application in commercial vehicles. Our common conclusion was at that conference that these mechanisms will be very widely used in commercial vehicles of the near future. I am very glad to underline that we were not wrong at all.

Due to political situation in our country, possibilities to meet each other were limited between 1992 and 1994, when we met again, but in Beijing, China, during the FISITA Congress. I was there to fight for JUMV not to be expelled from FISITA, but also to present a paper. I think my personal relations to Prof. Dr von Glasner were really, trully and finally established during several occasions that we spent together in China. Since then, our contacts and relations become even more frequent and more sincere than before.

In the last ten years we were presenting a number of common papers, we were organizing a number of international conferences and meetings, and in particular »Science and Motor Vehicles« 1997, 2001, and 2003, and ISO/TC22/SC2/WG6 last fall in Belgrade, and we have had an excellent lunch he offered me at the Belgrade airport on the 28th of May this year.

Prof. Dr. E.-C. von Glasner is the personality to whom we in Belgrade, in Serbia, in Serbia and Montenegro and in former Yugoslavia own a lot. First of all, I would say, he was our sincere friend. Besides, he supported our Society of Automotive Engineers much more than many other local members ever done so. He also was bringing a substantial support to the education process at our Department. Unfortunately we together never reached to make it in the way Dr. von Glasner really deserve it. Maybe the near future will bring us better winds to do what we should do. Finally, his contribution to the development of local automotive industry, and in particular to the development of companies like FAP and some others will be recognized. Of course, I cannot mis to say that international reputation of Prof. Dr. von Glasner both in the technical and social area is very high, and his contribution to the world wide spreaded braking people family is extraordinary.

I am sure Prof. Dr E.-C. von Glasner will have even more opportunities to extend all his activities in the near future not only because his new position in his company will allow him so but because we his friends all around the world will look for his ideas and his energy and will do our best to join him in it.

Finaly, I must say that I am pleased and honoured of being a friend and an associate of Prof. Dr. von Glasner. I wish him many, many years of professional success and personal health and heapiness.

Prof. Dr. Čedomir Duboka

Belgrade, June 10, 2003