



Editorial

Selected contributions to the RILEM SIB2015 symposium

During the last decades, mobility demands and traffic loads increased significantly, calling for innovative high-performance materials and techniques for asphalt pavements. At the same time, environmental concerns intensified the search for more sustainable infrastructures. As pavement engineers, researchers and technologists, we must therefore meet our new obligation to improve life conditions not only for users of pavement infrastructures but also for all individuals that are part of the environment.

In fact, the time when pavement engineers were considered as mutilators of the environment is over!

For the above-mentioned reasons, enhanced knowledge on sustainable and innovative bituminous materials has become indispensable for insuring appropriate and reliable applications of these materials within the pavement network. Of course, achieving such objectives requires developing and implementing performance-oriented test methods based on rigorous scientific debates and international synergies.

This Special Issue contains expanded papers of selected contributions submitted to the *8th RILEM International Symposium on Testing and Characterization of Sustainable & Innovative Bituminous Materials* held in Ancona (Italy) in 2015. They are written by leading experts in the field,

who are not only researchers but also practitioners and decision makers, thus providing new hints and up-to-date information on developments in the field of testing and characterization of sustainable and innovative bituminous materials and pavement technologies.

We believe that the experimental approach presented by the authors – supported by a sound theoretical background – will contribute to a further technological leap forward and hope that the pavement engineering research community will strengthen its efforts in fostering the environmentally friendly use of asphalt products.

In spite of remarkable progress, we are still at the beginning of this “new deal” between pavement engineers and environment, since many open issues still remain. For this reason, we are optimistic that this Special Issue will stimulate new discussions and successful research activities for the benefit of future generations.

The Guest Editors

Francesco Canestrari

Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy

Manfred N. Partl

Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Testing and Research, Switzerland