Opening Speech EAE Awards 2026

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Members of EAE, distinguished guests, colleagues, architects, designers, developers, and project representatives,

On behalf of the EAE Board of Directors, my colleague Raf De Heas from XThermo, and myself, I would like to warmly welcome you to the EAE Awards 2026 Ceremony. It is a great pleasure to see so many representatives of our industry gathered here today to celebrate excellence in energy-efficient and sustainable building solutions.

First of all, I would like to thank our Belgian colleagues from XThermo for their outstanding support in organizing today's event. This ceremony is a joint initiative of EAE and XThermo and would not have been possible without the commitment of many people and organizations. My sincere thanks also go to our sponsors:

Gold Sponsors: APU, BASF, Baumit, EUMEPS and Klimas

Silver Sponsors: EJOT, LIKOV, Fischer, Mapei, Sto and Rawlplug.

I would also like to express a very special acknowledgement to our colleague Ralf Pasker. Despite the health challenges that prevented him from joining us today, his contribution to the preparation and organization of this year's EAE Awards has been truly remarkable. On behalf of everyone present, thank you, Ralf, for your dedication and commitment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Year after year, EAE initiatives continue to gain recognition and importance across the European construction industry. The EAE Awards have become one of the key events highlighting innovation, sustainability, architectural quality and technical excellence within our sector. As the Board of Directors, we are proud of this achievement, because it reflects the strength of our association and the value created together by all our members.

This year is particularly special. We are celebrating the **third edition of the EAE Awards**, following the successful editions in 2021 and 2023/24. We have also achieved a new record, receiving **65 project submissions from 13 European countries**.

These entries demonstrate the extraordinary versatility of ETICS. The submitted projects cover the entire spectrum of modern construction and

renovation: new buildings, refurbishment projects, extensions, urban regeneration initiatives, and conversions of commercial buildings into residential spaces. They range from small-scale developments to landmark projects transforming entire neighborhoods.

What makes these projects exceptional is that we evaluate much more than aesthetics alone. The jury also considers energy performance, environmental responsibility, sustainability, and the positive impact of buildings on people and communities. This holistic approach reflects the values that define the future of European construction.

This year's submissions showcase an impressive diversity of insulation solutions, façade finishes, colours, textures, ceramic tiles, brick slips and architectural forms. Together, they demonstrate the remarkable design freedom and technical capabilities that ETICS systems offer architects and investors today.

I would also like to recognize our international jury. Their deliberations included more than four hours of intensive discussions and professional exchanges. The quality of the projects was so high that, in many cases, the final decisions were determined by the smallest details.

From all submissions, the jury selected **nine outstanding projects** for the final shortlist. Which of them will become tonight's winners? We will discover that together later this evening.

Today we are joined by more than **50 participants representing at least 10 European countries**, including representatives from European institutions and key stakeholders from the construction sector. Your presence confirms the growing significance of this event and the increasing importance of sustainable and energy-efficient building solutions across Europe.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I know our agenda is ambitious, so I will conclude with a message that perfectly captures the spirit of our community.

For many years, EAE has promoted innovation, quality and sustainability in façade insulation systems. Today's finalists and winners prove once again that ETICS are not only a proven solution for improving energy efficiency, but also an enabler of architectural creativity and sustainable development.

And therefore, following our tradition, I can only finish with a statement that has become part of our common identity:

ETICS are amazing. ETICS are inspiring. ETICS are shaping the future of European buildings.

Thank you very much and enjoy the EAE Awards 2026.