

Good evening to all,

I thank Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala, Conservatory Director Dr. Cristina Frosini, the Municipal Administration, SEA, and all of you who are here, despite the still rather difficult moment, to participate in our commemoration.

This evening, the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory welcomes us again, generously offering an unforgettable musical event, as is our tradition, in this venue that is so important for the city and a symbol of Milanese artistry.

Twenty years.

Twenty years have already passed since that unforgettable and tragic day.

A moment... an eternity.

We met on the path of sorrow. We shared dark moments and then, slowly, we gave one another the courage and strength to continue, hand in hand.

And now we are here: deeply touched but strong, as we want to be.

Paolo Pettinaroli is with us in spirit. Pasquale Padovano is here with us this evening.

We have done much over these past twenty years. There has been much pain, but also many smiles and collective strength.

Through our energies and efforts, and also thanks to the generosity of people who helped us achieve what was impossible to accomplish alone, we are now proud of the path we have created and followed.

First there were city conferences, then national round tables and relations with the most important airport authorities.

Then came the first awards, invitations to major world conferences as experts in aviation safety, and assistance to victims and their families.

Our work is recognized throughout the aeronautics world. The collaboration of family members and the testimony of what went wrong on 8 October 2001 helped create teams that can prepare a valid and efficient emergency response organization to assist family members and victims in the unfortunate event of an accident.

The monthly ENAC course involves us through our memories of that day to prepare professionals able to promptly assist those who may endure an experience similar to ours.

It was a painful, but useful and necessary effort.

Despite the complexity of the period that we are still experiencing, we have managed to continue many projects in the past year.

Finally, the book "Non è la colpa della nebbia" [*It is not the fog's fault*] written by Francesca La Mantia and published by Gribaudo has arrived and you can pick it up at the stand set up in the lobby.

The book will be in bookstores in early 2022, but it was already presented in a preview at Palazzo Marino on request of the outgoing City Council president, Dr. Lamberto Bertolè, in a meeting moderated by Giangiacomo Schiavi, which was also attended by the top management of ENAC and SEA.

We awarded the scholarship in memory of the victims of Linate and presented the Pettinaroli Award to Commander Radini and an award in memory of Commander Zipoli, important figures of our technical task force.

Yesterday the postmark was presented commemorating the accident with postcards designed by generous artists: Serena Pruno, mother of Valentina Giumelli, and her colleagues Marco Baudinelli, Gabriele Pardi and Laura Fiaschi.

Our conference, which was postponed due to the pandemic, will be held soon.

And finally, great news from a few days ago: ENAC intends to formalize October 8 as a day "not to forget" as early as next year.

Other projects should begin soon.

We will keep you updated, as always, on our website. But there is one thing that we have learned by now: it is difficult — if not impossible — to stop.

I conclude, dear friends, with a quote from Saint Teresa of Calcutta that I like very much and consider a message of hope:

"If along the way you lose something called hope, don't go forward and go back to look for it."

Therefore, holding hope by the hand, let the music begin to tell its story.

A big hug to everyone.

Thank you.