

FEIBP ANNUAL REPORT 2015

1. General introduction

The European Union struggles with its identity. Brexit came as a very unpleasant surprise and consequences for a Europe without England are still difficult to predict and analyse.

For the European Union it is a major setback and it underlines the need to reinvent our supranational institution.

The EU is hardly able to agree on concerted action to control the immigration flow and the awful terrorist attacks add to a general atmosphere of uncertainty and negativism..

Also for our industry the question is: How to cope with threats and opportunities? We all did visit Interbrush 2016 and could feel the strength of a relatively small industry sector in terms of innovation, automisation, product development. All SME industry, with a strong fundament of family owned companies, dedicated to their business. This creates a market position where quality products can compete and market share is growing. The re-allocation of products from China back to Europe is structural.

In this network FEIBP gains position and the observation by President Thorsten Stollberg that we have become more or less a European family over the years is not only nice but true as well.

As general manager I have the honour to visit FEIBP member companies, always warmly welcomed and at each occasion impressed by the power and quality in the whole range of household brushes, technical brushes, personal care, toothbrushes and paintbrushes.

There is optimism, it was a fairly good year in terms of turnover and result.

2. 57th FEIBP congress, September 2014, Salento (Italy)

A beach resort in the heel of Italy was selected by the Suzanna Acquaderni and it proved to be a good and original choice, appreciated by all delegates and partners. A very interesting key-note speaker Markus Weishaupt on the characteristics of family owned business.

The Brush Form new style with a dedicated time-slot was excellent and this format will be continued. It gave room for the competitors of the 8th Innovation Award Competition to show their products, Lessmann GmbH (Germany) was the winner with their "Interior brush with carbon fibre filament"

The Working Groups were interesting with concrete items in each working group.

3. Interbrush 2016, April 2016, Freiburg (Germany)

The combined stand FEIBP / AMBA / German Brushware Federation at the entrance of the fairgrounds did provide a welcome to the FEIBP membership. All individual FEIBP member companies were indicated on the wall of the stand. Co-operation with Daniel Strowitski and Thomas Vesper of Freiburg Messe was excellent.

The 150 years FFB exhibition was transformed and presented in the Meckelhalle / city centre Freiburg. The atmosphere of the exhibition served as a theatre for the Official Opening of Interbrush.

The After Hours Drinks offered by FEIBP, ABMA and Freiburg was well attended and convivial as always.

In three days the FEIBP board renewed old contacts, made new acquaintances and more than ever FEIBP felt to be part of the global brushware network.

We must expand on that also in terms of a growing number of members.

4. FEIBP in transition

At the congress in Italy the new interactive website of FEIBP was presented and is now online. The feedback is positive and much attention is paid to keep the information up to date.

A format for the FEIBP Newsletter, with the touch and feel of the website is coming soon.

Peter Langenegger is a member of the WG repositioning and did inform you on the improvements and further development of the website and performance of FEIBP.

Meetings

- 8 July 2016, Bologna

Plus

- 4 conference calls

5. Board

Meetings

- 9 December 2015, Amsterdam
- 26 April 2016, Freiburg
- 8 September 2016, Edinburgh

Plus

- 5 conference calls

6. Working Group meetings

Meetings WG Technical Brushes, Paintbrushes and PHB

In conjunction with the 57th congress, 8 September 2016, Edinburgh

Seperate meetings

- PHB, 1 April 2016, London
- TB, 24 April 2016, Freiburg

7. FEIBP Officers

Elected for a term of two years, 2015 – 2017

Thorsten Stollberg (G), President

Peter Langenegger (S), Vice-President

Evert Zuiddam (NL), Past President

Andrea Acquaderni (It), Treasurer

8. 58th FEIBP congress, 6- 8 September 2017, Leipzig (Germany)

To receive the first information of next years' congress by President Thorsten Stollberg.

8. Closing remarks

UK has no national association for the brushware industry anymore, but fortunately individual companies are joining or considering membership.

This congress is an incentive for a stronger UK representation in Europe (no Brexit!)

Philip and Pamela Coward took the responsibility to organise and host this super congress in beautiful Edinburgh. They did a perfect job and what a pleasure to work with the family Coward, thank you on behalf of all the participants.

Thank you for your attention.

Fons Ceelaert

General manager FEIBP

9 September 2016, Edinburgh