

FEIBP ANNUAL REPORT 2021

General assembly 21 October 2021

European brushware industry surviving the COVID-19 pandemic and creating new business opportunities

1. General overview

Due to the COVID-19 measures and restrictions, with big impact on our lives, it was impossible to organise a traditional physical FEIBP congress in 2020 and as alternative a virtual General Assembly was held on 15 October 2020.

With a good attendance the European brushware community was able to exchange views and opinions on the impact of COVID-19 on our businesses. Will the crisis lead to new chances for our European manufacturing and enhance our global competitiveness?

Linked to topics such sustainability and quality issues, also discussed in interactive Working Group meeting on hygiene brushware, personal care, technical brushes and paintbrushes.

The GA survey did show that participants did appreciate this alternative virtual GA, but a physical congress is what we really need, the great annual platform for our community in terms of exchanging views and networking.

We all aimed for a real congress in Prague this month, but the COVID-19 situation is too vulnerable and many brushmakers and suppliers are reluctant to make arrangements for this congress, and there are still restrictions in many countries. The current trend regarding new cases is not positive.

We had to decide to postpone the Prague congress for another year to **21 – 24 September 2022**.

We do hope to meet many colleagues from Central Europe and expand our membership in this region.

Since the GA 2020 the pandemic impact returned and all countries went into another lockdown situation.

Despite this setback FEIBP kept on communicating and virtual meetings were held.

The turmoil on the raw materials markets, from synthetics to timber and aluminium and on top of that exploding transport and freight costs.

At this General Assembly we have obtained interesting presentations by experts in the freight sector and the timber packaging industry. The picture was completed by the regular and most appreciated market reports from our suppliers.

Despite a trend to stabilisation, it is too early to predict what will happen next 6 months.

There were more issues discussed and **key priorities** for **2022** were determined:

COVID-19 and new business opportunities for the European brushware industry

➤ Reshoring of manufacturing to Europe / temporary or structural?

“Produce and buy local” is not a vague appeal, the transport and freight costs, trade disruptions (delivery times) do lead customers to suppliers nearer to their location.

➤ Sustainability

This links to the climate change topic, how can we achieve environmental goals which support the credibility of our industry and quality products.

The carbon footprint of our product can be enhanced and it will improve our global competitiveness. It requires a common European industry approach and the FEIBP can be instrumental in combining industry co-operation in the field of research and PR.

But it will take time to get customers on board and adapt this new mentality.

➤ Working force / how to make the industry more attractive for young and qualified people?

Labour is of concern, it has been observed that companies have difficulties in finding good personnel. What can we do, how to use for example social media in this respect.

Hopefully we got some inspiration by our key-note speaker on Social Media.

And the FEIBP introduced a **quarterly market survey**, with general issues and a breakdown per product sub-categories.

All FEIBP member companies are asked to respond to this simple survey and the third report has been released a week ago.

The higher the response, the better the quality of the reports will become

A renewed **FEIBP website** is under construction and a presentation of the new look and feel was presented at the general assembly, after fine-tuning the website will be launched.

2. Meetings

Board

- 11 December 2020
- 25 March 2021
- 19 May 2021
- 7 July 2021
- 15 October 2021

Working Groups

PHB

- 7 May 2021
- 23 September 2021

Technical Brushes

- 27 May 2021
- End of October 2021

Personal care

- Meeting scheduled end of October 2021

Paint Brushes

- 19 January 2021
- 8 October 2021

3. FEIBP officers 2022 – 2023

As current President Andrew McIlroy will be heavily involved into the organisation of the FEIBP 2023 in Belfast (Northern Ireland), in combination with the ambition of future President Alessandro Acquaderni to have future congresses in Italy and if possible Spain under his Presidency, the FEIBP board proposes to extend Presidency of Andrew with 1 year, ending at the Belfast congress 2023

Andrea Acquaderni will step down as FEIBP Treasurer, after having served for many years. The FEIBP board proposes to elect **Peter Brunner** (management board Ebnat AG, Switzerland) as successor of Andrea. Peter Brunner has been involved in two previous FEIBP congresses held in Switzerland (Sankt Gallen and Lucerne).

It is proposed to elect the following officers.

Andrew McIlroy (Germany/UK), President

Peter Langenegger (Switzerland), Past President

Alessandro Acquaderni (Italy), vice-President

Peter Brunner (Switzerland), Treasurer

Alessandro Acquaderni is available as President for the period 2024–2026.

The officers 2022 – 2023 were unanimously elected

4. 62nd FEIBP congress, 21 – 24 September 2022, Prague (Czech Republik)

The congress 2021 is postponed and arrangements in Prague have been secured for next year.

President **Andrew McIlroy** gave a short update on this congress.

The FEIBP goes to Central Europe for a congress in Prague, a step forward in expanding the FEIBP membership to Central European countries.

5. Closing remarks

On behalf of all FEIBP members gratitude to **Andrea Acquaderni**, having served for so many years as the FEIBP Treasurer. Accurate and supportive, a great financial captain.

The company SIT lends support to the annual congress, taking care of the financial administration, a big job in the safe hands of Mrs Elena Berto, this proves the active involvement of the family Acquaderni into our beloved federation.

Again thank you Andrea and in Prague we will raise some glasses to your health.

Fons Ceelaert

General manager