

FEIBP ANNUAL REPORT 2022

General Assembly, Friday 23 September 2022 / 62nd FEIBP congress – Prague

European brushware industry remains stable in global turmoil

1. General overview

On 21 October 2021 a well attended virtual General Assembly was held, as the COVID-10 restrictions forced the FEIBP to postpone the 62nd FEIBP congress in Prague for another year.

Interesting presentations on the wood sector and freight / transport costs. And on the use of social media to attract young and talented young people to our industry.

Now finally a real congress for the first time in the Czech Republic and it fantastic to join as brushmakers and suppliers, a programme with challenging speakers **mr Philipp Haindl** on “succession management in family business” and **mr Andrew Griffiths** on “sustainability”, two topics that have become priorities for our industry and on the agenda of our working groups that were held.

On top of that as always our esteemed suppliers with the *market reports* and three competitors in the *13rd Innovation Award competition*: Zahn, Ebnat and Brenet. Many many thanks, these are important elements of any congress.

The impact of the Ukraine war, with EU sanctions imposed upon Russia and Belarus and causing trade disruptions with Ukraine, was felt but our businesses were not hit as hard as other sectors. Raw materials remain in rather good supply but price increases have to be accepted. Energy and freight /transport costs are adding to the uncertain situation. In the end our products become more expensive and there is an end to what the market can accept. We have to cope with these challenges and when things turn back to a more normal situation is hard to predict.

The co-operation with our USA partner association ABMA was intensified in a dialogue on the future of Interbrush, with our shared concern on the future of the exhibition, as consequence of a strategic decision by a big exhibitor to end their involvement in Interbrush.

More about that has been addressed at the Official Opening of this congress and definitive conclusions on dates and location of the next global exhibition, which is of tremendous importance for our industry, are to be announced in the short term.

2. The FEIBP year at a glance

The FEIBP board was very active and many virtual meetings were held.

During the COVID-19 period the FEIBP introduced the quarterly trend index on general trends and with a breakdown to the sub sectors Technical Brushes, household brushes, hygiene brushes and paintbrushes. The response on the index is slowly increasing.

Also the renewed FEIBP website was launched, fresh and the content will be kept more up to date and all members are invited to provide the FEIBP with news and information.

And the Working Groups remained active during the year and as we all could notice during the meetings held yesterday, the agenda is gaining more momentum, we are more willing to share our views and ambitions and common topics in the field of labour force, sustainability and carbon footprint are defined.

3. FEIBP officers 2022 – 2023

The Presidency of Andrew McIlroy was extended with one year, ending at next year's congress in Belfast (Northern Ireland).

Then Alessandro Acquaderni will be proposed as his successor, already making plans for his term. His father Andrea stepped down as Treasurer, serving for many years, and Peter Brunner is our new Treasurer

*Andrew McIlroy (Germany / UK, President
Alessandro Acquaderni (Italy), vice-President
Peter Langenegger (Switzerland), past- President
Peter Brunner (Switzerland), Treasurer*

4. 63rd FEIBP congress, 20 – 22 September 2022 / Belfast (Northern Ireland)

This congress will be kindly hosted by Denroy Ltd, John Rainey and Christopher Boomer. A first impression of this congress will be presented at the end of the General Assembly.

5. Closing remarks

This congress was entirely organized by our own federation, in good co-operation with our partners here in Prague.

It is with much pleasure to show gratitude to our **President Andrew**, who put a lot of time and energy in this congress. For me as your General Manager it was a pleasure to work with Andrew and looking forward to prolong that partnership for another year heading for Belfast.

Finally much gratitude to SIT, the *family Acquaderni* for lending support regarding the financial administration, so professionally and friendly managed by *mrs Elena Berto*.

Fons Ceelaert / September 2022