

Press release on the EUF Annual General Meeting 09-11 June 2022

The leaders of the national European Tile Associations (EUF) met in Stuttgart on 9 and 10 June for the Annual General Meeting

The historic backdrop of the Schlossplatz with the old and new palace buildings and the lively shopping mile Königsstraße marked the start of this year's **Annual General Meeting** (AGM) in Stuttgart, the metropolis and capital of Baden-Württemberg. EUF President Karl-Hans Körner invited everyone to his home town.

Every three years, the members and supporting members of the EUF meet within this framework in order to exchange technical and political topics and to define the goals for the new period, as well as to cultivate social exchange between the European professional colleagues and partners and to deepen networking.

Under the motto: "CERAMICS & ARCHITECTURE - yesterday, today, tomorrow - metamorphoses", Swiss architect and ceramics connoisseur Sergio Cavero demonstrated the fascination and diversity of ceramic tile in historical and modern contexts. According to Cavero, ceramics accompany us as a third skin and thus have a great and direct influence on our well-being and life. He inspired the participants again and again with objects with different surface textures, colour plays and different combinations of shapes and formats. Ceramics, unique and diverse at the same time.

The EUF is the sponsor of the PCI Alpine Cup, which will take place for the second time in July 2022 in Augsburg in a specially designed competition arena. This year, seven nations will take part in this European competition of champions. The competition is designed as a two-day team competition in which each nation sends two of its best young tilers. Stephan Tschernek, Head of *Marketing* at PCI Augsburg, explained the concept and the media concept surrounding the event, in which Montolit, Karl Dahm and Primaverde are also participating as EUF partners.

For the first time, a delegation from Denmark attended the EUF Annual General Meeting and presented the vocational training concept as well as the tile sector of the country. We are pleased to count 12 new members from 14 countries in the EUF with the Danish Tile Federation.

Karl-Hans Körner (DE) was confirmed in his office as President for a second, 3-year term. Furthermore, Anita Wolf (AT) was elected as 1st Vice-President and Luca Berardo (IT) as 2nd Vice-President. Laurent Decker (LUX) was elected as new Treasurer and finally the President of the Technical Commission Peter Goegebeur (BE) and the Managing Director Andreas Furgler (CH) were confirmed in office for another period.

The work of the EUF for the next three years consists in particular of,

- Strengthen relations with industrial partners and in particular with manufacturers and industry associations (specifically Confindustria Ceramica, ASCER and the Turkish Tile Manufacturers Association) in the ceramics sector.
- work with industry and trade on a partnership relationship for the benefit of our sector.
- to better understand the needs of our member associations in technology and education issues and to discuss these at joint professional symposia.
- organise joint training sessions for candidates and experts of professional championships (national and international).
- to install a permanent contact with the European ceramic dealer industry.
- to increase the number of members from 14 to 20 (especially in Northern and Eastern Europe) and to attract new associate members.
- Improve communication (inside and outside the EUF) and try to raise the profile of the EUF.

On behalf of the EUF family, Karl-Hans Körner thanked the outgoing treasurer Marc Decker, who actively worked on the EUF Board for almost 40 years and thus contributed to a significant part of EUF history, from the bottom of his heart for his many years of trusting and voluntary commitment. Körner also thanked the outgoing Vice-President Silvio Boschian, who unfortunately could not be present. For more than 12 years, Boschian had actively shaped the EUF's fortunes in favour of a strong and self-confident tiling sector in Europe.

In addition to the work, the participants were able to visit the "most beautiful market hall in Germany" and enjoy original Swabian cuisine in the evening. On the second day, a visit to the Daimler-Benz Museum rounded off the EUF event. The sight of exclusive, historic or concept vehicles embedded in the contemporary context and unique architecture of the Daimler-Benz Museum made the hearts of many participants beat faster.

Picture 1: **The Board of the EUF** from left to right:

Jiri Pavlicek (CZ); Dominic Ryan (IRL); Pascal del Toso (F); Jacob Scavinius (DK); Andreas Furgler, Executive Director (CH); Pascal de Stobbeleir (BE); Karl-Hans Körner, President (DE); Anita Wolf, 1. Vice-President (AT); Laurent Decker, Treasurer (LUX), Luca Berardo, 2nd Vice-President (IT); Konrad Imbach (CH); Gerard Reus (NL)

Absent board members: Peter Goegebeur, President Technical Commission (BE); Matias Martinez (ESP)

Photo 2: **The EUF Presidium** from left to right:

Karl-Hans Körner, President; Anita Wolf, 1st Vice-President; Luca Berardo 2nd Vice-President

Figure 3: **Participants and partners of the EUF Annual General Meeting**

Picture 4: **Honorary member Marc F. Decker with President Karl-Hans Körner**

Further information on the EUF can be found at www.euf-federation.com

Enquiries to: info@euf-federation.com

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