



2nd edition of FTA Europe Diamond Awards to take place on Wednesday 30th May in Milan!

Following a successful event in 2016, the 2nd edition of the [FTA Europe Diamond Awards](#), rewarding the best in flexo, will be held at the Hotel Barceló in Milan on Wednesday 30th May 2018, during the Print4All Fair. The event helps to shape and foster the quality of flexographic printing across Europe.

Following national-level awards, first-place winners participate automatically in the European awards. The announcement of companies selected to participate will be made in late March 2018, after the jury meeting and evaluation. New winning companies will compete alongside national winners from

late 2016 and 2017 at the FTA Europe Diamond Awards 2018.

In 2016, 10 categories were awarded, plus the “Best in Flexo” - selected from existing entries. In 2018, some categories will be added, increasing the number of companies awarded and the quality of the event.

Registrations are now open and sponsorship opportunities are available for flexo companies wishing to contribute to the organisation of the ceremony. Companies interested in sponsorship or in booking a 10-seat table, as well as individuals interested in purchasing single tickets, should contact Luca Conti: lconti@fta-europe.eu.

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lconti@fta-europe.eu



FLEXO BEST PRACTICE TOOL BOX

The European Guidelines Explaining Flexographic Printing

Companies joining the project:



Companies willing to support the
Flexo Best Practice Tool Box should contact
lconti@fta-europe.eu

First draft of first chapters of Flexo Best Practice Tool Box released

During the last FTA Europe Board meeting, the FTA Europe Working Group presented the first chapters of the [Flexo Best Practice Tool Box](#). When completed, the project will consist of a comprehensive and easy-to-read guide to teach users about the activities necessary to achieve good results from flexographic printing systems.

The main objectives of the Flexo Best Practice Toolbox are to capture best practices and to troubleshoot expertise in the

sector before it is lost with retiring experts, as well as to improve business results by managing the complex production process as a total system in which the performance of each element is considered.

Access to the content of the first sample is available only for representatives of supporting companies and national associations. Interested companies may still get involved with the project to provide expertise and financial support. Contact Luca Conti for more information.



FTA Europe continues to cooperate beyond Europe's borders

FTA Europe is enlarging its network of partners, attending two flexo congresses outside of Europe in recent months: in Brazil and Australia.

In September, Luca Conti (on behalf of Sante Conselvan), gave the opening speech at the Intercontinental Conference on Flexography, organised by the Brazilian Flexographic Technical Association (ABFlexo) in Sau Paulo. The Intercontinental Conference is a bi-annual event at which Brazilian and other Latin American flexo companies can showcase and discuss about flexography with experts and companies' representatives. The event is the largest and most important event on flexography in Latin America. FTA Europe, as an institutional partner of ABFlexo, was invited to share the European flexo experience.

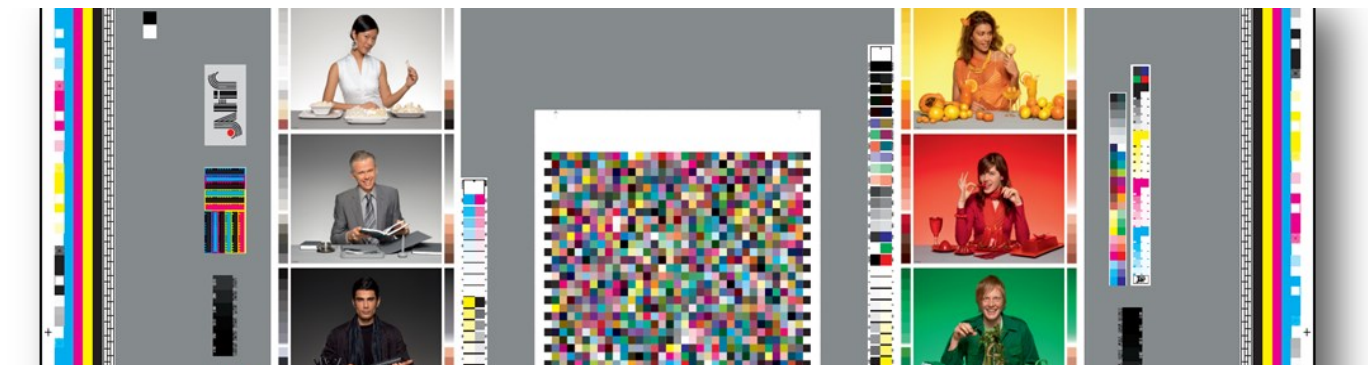
In his presentation, Luca addressed the structure, activities and objectives of FTA Europe, as well as some technical topics and synergies and current and future market trends. He also stressed the importance of a strong cooperation between flexo associations all around the world.

In October, Sante Conselvan, FTA Europe President, attended the Annual Forum of the Australia and New Zealand Flexible Packaging & Label Manufacturers Association (FPLMA), held in Melbourne. This year is the

third time FTA Europe has been invited to this event, confirming the strong relationship between the two flexo associations and their involvement in common projects.

The technical forum addressed the future of packaging, new technologies, quality, education and skills. President Conselvan also participated in a round table discussion about education and skills, analysing an issue which is very much global. When describing FTA Europe, President Conselvan presented the current activities of the association, and gave an overview and an update of packaging in Europe (an active sector). This was summarised in the key message of the Forum: Present and Future of Packaging – synergies, creative innovations, technology, personalization, and attention to the changes of the society and its trends. At the end of an intensive two days of discussion, the 2 Best in Show companies, one for packaging and one for labels, were awarded.

The participation of FTA Europe in Brazil and Australia concludes the overseas journey of FTA Europe for 2017. After the attendance of the FTA US Congress earlier in May, these latest trips to at the Brazilian and Australian Forums emphasises once more the progresses of FTA Europe in being recognised as a stable and valuable partner by the flexo community at international level.



FTA Europe article featured in the FlexoTech Supplement

FTA Europe recently made a contribution to the *FlexoTech Supplement—The Handbook for Certification and Accreditation*. The article, entitled “How to help make flexo a reliable technology”, was written by the FTA Europe Working Group.

FTA Europe reported its perspectives on how to educate flexo printers and provide them with the knowledge to print consistently and in a streamlined process.

Even if flexography today is able to produce

a printing quality that is the same level as other printing processes, thanks to continuous technological innovations on press as well as on plate preparation, the vocational training of flexo operators is not growing at the same rate. Consequently, in this area, FTA Europe wants to move forward by proposing new technical solutions to promote the learning, achievement, preservation and longevity of top quality production.

You can read the full article [here](#) (pp. 16-18).



EFIA UK 2018 flexo print awards competition now open!

As the end of 2017 approaches, it's time to start preparing your entries for the 2018 EFIA UK Awards. The competition was officially opened on September 15th 2017, with judging due to take place in January. The Awards Gala Dinner will take place on 15th March 2018. Pencil the event in your diary and register to attend!

All gold winners from the 2017 and 2018 competitions will go forward into the FTA Europe

Diamond Awards, taking place in Milan on 30th May 2018. Entries are open until 30th December. You can find the latest Rules and Entry Forms on EFIA's website. Categories include print categories, special categories, best in show and other awards, with judging carried out by a panel of experts and industry representatives made up of printers, suppliers, brand owners and retailers. For more information visit www.efia.uk.com/awards.

Upcoming national events and flexo awards

DATE	EVENT
09/11/2017	EFTA Benelux Flexo Awards , Antwerp, Belgium
14/11/2017	ATIF Italy Best in Flexo , Bologna, Italy
15/11/2017	ATIF Italy Flexo Day , Bologna, Italy
16/11/2017	ATEF Spain Annual Congress , Barcelona, Spain
14/12/2017	ATF France Annual Congress , St. Malo, France
14/12/2017	ATF France Concours Flexostar —Ceremony de Remise des Prix / Ceremony of Delivering the Awards
March 2018	EFIA UK Annual Print Awards , Birmingham, UK
March 2018	ATEF Spain Flexo Awards—Announcement of winning companies
30/05/2018	FTA Europe Diamond Awards 2018 , Milan, Italy



What flexo events are approaching? Contact Luca Conti, lconti@fta-europe.eu, if you have an event to advertise in FTA Europe's Newsletter.