

# FTA Europe News

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## Association News

# Successful General Assembly held in Brussels



FTA Europe (from left) Treasurer Debbie Waldron-Hoines (UK); Monica Scorzino (IT); Minna Belli (FR); President Sante Conselvan (IT); Vice President Wim Buyle (Benelux); FTA Europe Secretary General Beatrice Klose; Ignasi Cusi (SP); FTA Europe Membership and Information Officer Annie Scanlan

On 4 June 2019, FTA Europe held its annual General Assembly at the association's office in Brussels.

The Members held constructive discussions on FTA Europe's activities over the past year. Our President and Board Members were also re-elected, meaning the mandates of Sante Conselvan (IT) as President, Wim Buyle (Benelux) as Vice-President, Debbie Waldron-Hoines (UK) as Treasurer, and Jean-Pierre Bonnet (FR) and Ignaci Cusi (SP) as Board Members have been renewed for the next two years.

The Members made decisions on two of the

key activities of FTA Europe: the organisation of the 2020 FTA Europe Diamond Awards and the FTA Europe Flexo Best Practice Toolbox.

EU and national legislation impacting flexo companies, and FTA Europe's presence at future industry events were also discussed.

In an exciting development, it was also decided that FTA Europe will create a new membership category: 'associate member'. This category will be open to flexo printing companies in European countries which do not have a national flexo association. This will bring the benefits of being part of FTA Europe to even more of our industry.

## Association News

# FTA Europe Packaging Report goes on sale

Following the hugely successful Packaging Conference 2019, held in Brussels, FTA Europe, Intergraf, and Smithers Pira have published a report giving an overview of printed packaging trends.

The report brings together the conclusions of the conference, in particular analysis of consumer preferences and mega-trends.

Key trends include: packaging sustainability; innovative functionality; e-commerce; and industry 4.0.

The report is available to FTA Europe members free of charge, and for sale for €250.



# FTA Europe goes to the USA

FTA Europe and a delegation of European printers and suppliers attended FTA USA's 2019 Forum & Infoflex trade show in New Orleans, USA, which proved a great opportunity to forge closer ties between the flexo industry in Europe and in the USA.

The FTA USA Forum and Infoflex trade show took place in May. A special reception for the European delegates was organised, facilitating an effective exchange of views on the latest developments in flexo printing.

The Presidents of both flexo associations agreed that frequent contact between them is crucial to harness opportunities and tackle shared global challenges.



(From left) Jay Kaible; Joe Tuccittol; Monica Scorzino (IT); FTA Europe President Sante Conselvan (IT); FTA USA President Mark Cisternino; and Brad Pareso

## Events

### 2019

#### SEPTEMBER

24/09/2019 The Future of Offset Conference, Malmö, Sweden

24-27/09/2019 Labelexpo Europe 2019, Brussels, Belgium

#### OCTOBER

07-09/10/2019 InterPACK California, USA

#### NOVEMBER

ATEF flexography technical day, Madrid, Spain

07/11/2019 EFTA's Benelux flexo awards, Antwerp, Belgium

#### DECEMBER

12/12/2019 ATF's Flexostars ceremony, Toulouse, France

### 2020

#### MARCH

19/03/2019 EFIA's British national flexo awards

#### APRIL

ATEF's Spanish national flexo awards

#### MAY

07-13/05/2020 InterPACK, Düsseldorf, Germany

#### JUNE

18/06/2020 FTA Europe Diamond Awards, Düsseldorf, Germany





## 2019 EFIA Print Awards

The best and the brightest in the flexographic industry were recognised at the 2019 European Flexographic Industry Association (EFIA) Print Awards - FTA Europe's British member.

The ceremony, which was held at the iconic Concorde Conference Centre in Manchester, was attended by over 500 guests and hosted by Welsh comedian Rod Woodward.

The annual EFIA Print Awards bring together the best and most innovative companies from across the flexographic industry, in the UK and internationally, to highlight print quality, efficiency, innovation, sustainability and technical development.

Companies that picked up awards included Contact Originators, Rigid, Parkside, Hamilton Labels, FFP, Ultimate, Roberts Mart and Coveris. Leading the winners were DS Smith and Smurfit Kappa who both took home a haul of 13 accolades, with Interflex Group picking up a total of 6 awards.

For the third year in a row, Amcor Flexibles Cumbria, was the overall winner of the event, winning Best in Show for its Kellogg's Extra Chocolate Muesli pack; Coveris claimed second place in the category, with DS Smith finishing third.

Another big winner on the night was Roberts Mart & Co Ltd who picked up three Gold Awards for its innovative work in flexo printing, taking the company's total to 10 golds in the last four years!

Supplier of the Year was handed to Sandon Global who has now successfully won the



award, based on an EFIA membership vote, every year since 2015.

In its inaugural year, the Environmental and Sustainability award was handed to Earth Inks and Smurfit Kappa for their innovative work in creating a Huggies baby wipes pack.

A new addition to this year's awards was the Innovative Displays during the Pre-Dinner Drinks reception and this was won by Smurfit Kappa.

To view all the winning entries or to find out more about EFIA, please visit [www.efia.uk.com](http://www.efia.uk.com) or

**'The Awards bring together the best and most innovative companies'**

contact EFIA on email: [admin@efia.uk.com](mailto:admin@efia.uk.com).

## Printing and coating masterclass in Sweden

Brobygrafiska, Swansea University, the Welsh Centre for Printing and Coating, icmPrint, Sweflex and FTA Europe held an international masterclass at Brobygrafiska in Sunne, Sweden, between 10 and 13 June 2019.

The masterclass was designed for experienced graphic artists, which gave participants the opportunity to gain the understanding and skill to get the most out of flexo printing by mixing the latest research and "best practice".

Theory and practice were combined with a mix of daily lectures and workshops covering the latest technical research and then applying it to the Brobygrafiska's printing press.

Operations Manager at Brobygrafiska Per Branzén said "We see that the international interest in Brobygrafiska is increasing and we

have participants and partners from Wales, USA, France, Latvia, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden".

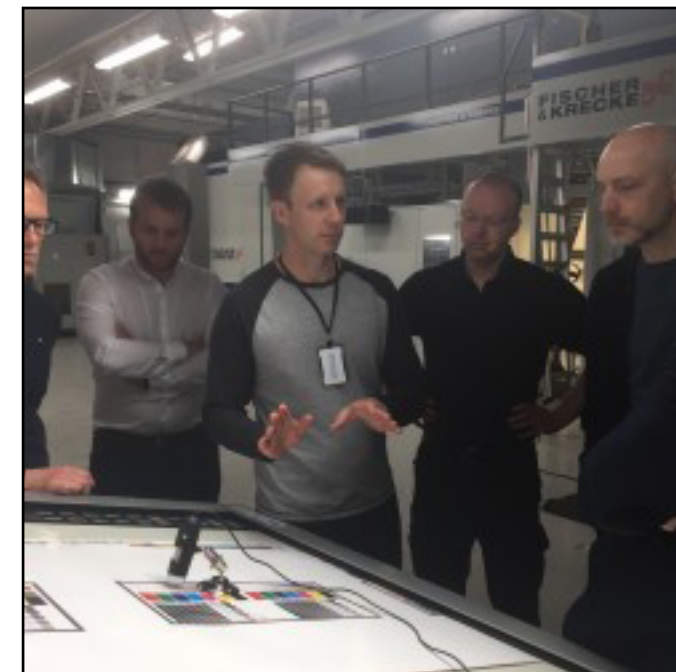
Professor Tim Claypole, of Swansea University, said that the "Cooperation with Brobygrafiska

**'The latest research and best practice builds skills and understanding'**

enables research carried out at the Welsh Centre for Printing and Coating to be applied and tested in Brobygrafiska's printing press and to be directly used".

Thomas Scherpereel, business developer of Asahi-Photoproducts, said "The effect of masterclass is that the different experiences of the participants, together with the course management, provide new insights into areas that would take a long time to discover otherwise".

The Welsh Centre for Printing and Coating will hold a course on 'Printing for Functional Applications' in Swansea, UK, between 9 and 11 July. The course will benefit anyone with an interest in printing functional coatings, smart packaging, RFID and IOT, as well as electronics and sensors. Please contact Tim Claypole ([t.c.claypole@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:t.c.claypole@swansea.ac.uk)) for further information.





## EFTA Benelux updates

### Flexo Academy 2018-19

On 23 May, the fifth and final day of the 3rd edition of EFTA Benelux' Flexo Academy took place. The session concluded a series of 5 one-day sessions over a 9-month period, each covering a different aspect and hosted by a different company.

In September 2018, the series kicked off with a day hosted by Oerlemans Plastics on general printing techniques. This was followed by a day on substrates hosted by Mayr-Melnhof Karton. After the winter break, Apex Europe hosted a day on ancillary equipment. Flint Group then provided their facility for the day on quality aspects. The fifth and final day at Rudico focused on high quality performance.

The five sessions of the Flexo Academy brought together a total of 20 participants and were led by EFTA Benelux President and chief course leader Roel Seele, who has a 30-year background in printing and packaging technology.

**'The academy offers the possibility to broaden their knowledge'**

Roel Seele commented that:

"[The] aim of the Flexo Academy is to teach newcomers all aspects that are part of a flexo technologist's competence profile. For

existing workers in the industry, the academy offers the possibility to broaden their knowledge on specific aspects. Because it is also possible to follow individual sessions, the Flexo Academy also provides an excellent opportunity for other target groups such as sales staff or laboratory workers, to enhance their understanding of specific aspects of flexo printing."



### EFTA Benelux launches Flexo Technical Theme Sessions

In the second half of 2019, EFTA Benelux will start a new initiative: the Flexo Technical Theme Sessions.

The sessions are organised by technicians and for technicians, and will welcome production managers, operators and other technicians who are working in flexo on a daily basis.

During these sessions, participants will share and exchange know-how and expertise about special challenges in flexo, such as ghosting, donuts, spitting, tapes, inks, elastomers vs. polymers and many other

themes. The seminars will take around an afternoon and be organised at a printer's plant.

### 3rd edition of EFTA Benelux Flexo Awards now accepting entries



On Thursday 7 November 2019, the Hilton Hotel Antwerp will again provide the stage for the 3rd edition of the EFTA Benelux Flexo Awards.

Flexo printing packaging companies from Belgium and the Netherlands will compete in

## ATEF flexo news

### Graphispag 2019

ATEF, the Spanish flexo association, participated in Graphispag 2019 between 26 and 29 March 2019. ATEF organised several events dedicated to packaging printing.

ATEF participated in "Graphispag Talks", which facilitated sharing experiences and knowledge and aimed to inspire other businesses to join in with the transformation of the graphic sector.

The members of ATEF also held events:

- Propyls: Discover the concept of a superior



Sun Chemical and Bastin-Pack NV

no less than 13 categories for the prestigious honour of being best in class.

The entry deadline is 12 September.



solvent / OXEA GmbH

- What is Comexi doing to start the way towards sustainability? The analysis of the



## Members' News

product life cycle and the environmental declaration. / COMEXI

- Value chain for the manufacture of sustainable packaging / BASF Iberia / COMEXI/ QUIMOVIL
- Affordable Soft Security Alternatives / COMEXI
- Color solutions and integrated inspection: work flow through the packaging supply chain. /ESKO

### Flexography technical day

On 7 May 2019, the annual flexography technical day was held in Valencia with 100 attendees.

The following presentations of ATEF's members took place:

- EFI: EFI Packaging Suite, Integration, automation and productivity / EFI
- Requirements of the inks in the production of compostable packaging / QUIMOVIL
- New challenges of the flexographic industry / DUPONT
- Propyls: Discover the concept of a superior solvent / OXEA GmbH
- Digitization, the engine to optimize and integrate the manufacturing processes of flexible packaging / COMEXI
- Reduction of wastage, through the flexographic process / ESKO
- Trends and requirements in flexible packaging printing/ AIMPLAS

Currently, ATEF is preparing the next flexography technical day, which will take place in Madrid during November 2019, in the technological centre of the company 3M, which is a member of ATEF.

### Annual General Assembly

ATEF's Annual General Assembly was held on 17 June 2019. The members were informed of the events held throughout the year and the goals of ATEF for the year 2020.



### National flexo awards

ATEF organises the national flexo awards every two years. This year, ATEF will launch the contest in September 2019. The Spanish jury session will take place in January 2020, and the awards ceremony in April 2020.

The categories of ATEF's national awards include packaging and packing; corrugated board; paper bags; labels; and special achievements.

The Spanish winners then compete in the international contest "Diamond Awards", which is organised by FTA Europe and will be held in Düsseldorf, Germany, on 18 June 2020.

## EU Policy Corner

# 2019 so far: key policies for printers

The FTA Europe Secretariat monitors policy issues at EU level which impact flexo printers. This covers legislation and initiatives from the EU institutions relating to packaging, plastics, the environment, and chemicals.

2019 has so far seen the adoption of new EU-wide legislation which aims to reduce the use of certain plastics in the EU – termed "single-use" plastics.



This EU Directive is one of the most significant final initiatives of the current European Commission (2014-19).

For printers, the ban by 2021 and reduction targets on certain products such as plastic plates and bottles could disrupt value chains and business. New recycling targets also assign greater responsibility to producers, strengthening the "polluter pays" principle.

2019 is an important year politically due to the European Parliament election (May 2019) and appointment of the new European Commission (Autumn 2019).

Following the May 2019 election, pro-EU parties still have the majority - despite the

predicted wave of far-right support in Europe. This is subject to change once the UK leaves the EU - notably for the S&D (centre left) and ECR (right) - and the overall number of MEPs will drop from 751 to 705. No UK MEPs sit with the largest party EPP (centre right) so this party will be unaffected by Brexit. The date for Brexit is currently set for 31 October.

This new European Parliament, in combination with a new European Commission being appointed in the Autumn will mean that there will be many new faces in Brussels and a new political and policy agenda.

Sustainability issues will continue to be prominent, which could lead to stricter environmental and waste legislation. For instance, public attention on ideas such as 'zero-waste' - which politicians have picked up on - have implications for printers who produce food packaging particularly.



Additionally, a legislative proposal on food contact materials; a review of the extended producer responsibility eco-modulation criteria and new guidance for Member States; as well as a review of the essential requirements (Packaging Waste Directive) are expected.

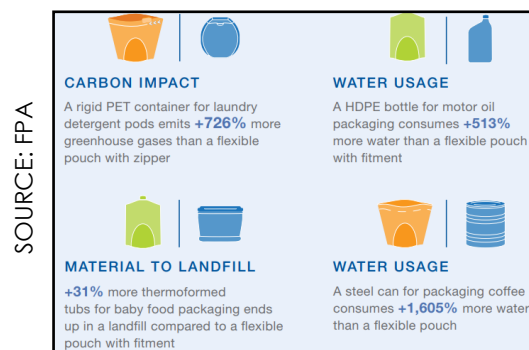


## Packaging: consumers, trends, sustainability

### PACKAGING IN A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

The Flexible Packaging Association (FPA) have published a new report on sustainable packaging which demonstrates the life cycle advantages of flexible packaging. 'A Holistic View of the Role of Flexible Packaging in a Sustainable World' examines the sustainability benefits of packaging; and how to address packaging challenges.

Read it here: <http://bit.ly/2KpL4Lp>



### CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS OF PACKAGING

Pro-Carton has produced the results of an EU-wide survey with consumers on the perception of packaging. The infographics can be downloaded here <http://bit.ly/2RDGny9> and some examples viewed on this page.

### RECORD GROWTH FOR POLAND'S PACKAGING INDUSTRY

According to the Polish Chamber of Packaging, the production volume of plastic, paper, board, glass and metal packaging produced rose last year by an average of 6.5% in 2018. Demand was particularly strong

in the food sector, with a notable interest being taken in high-quality packaging. The Chamber found that, as of 2018, the value of the Polish packaging market increased to around €11bn.

Read it here: <http://bit.ly/2lRx5dR>

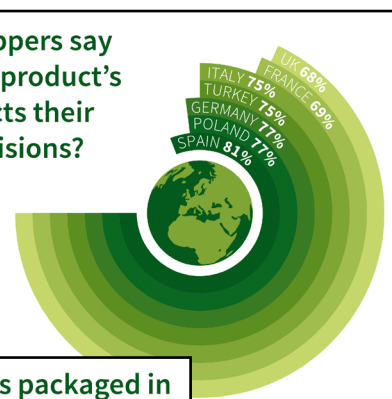
### MINTEL PACKAGING TRENDS

Mintel has published a report which gives an overview of packaging trends. The themes are: virtual connection, engineering innovation, e-commerce and sustainability.

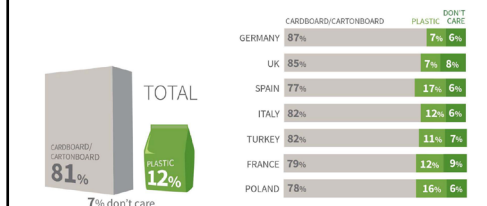
Read it here: <https://www.mintel.com/global-packaging-trends/>

How many shoppers say the impact of a product's packaging affects their purchasing decisions?

75% say it does!



If the same product was packaged in plastic and cartonboard, which one would you choose?



SOURCE: PRO-CARTON

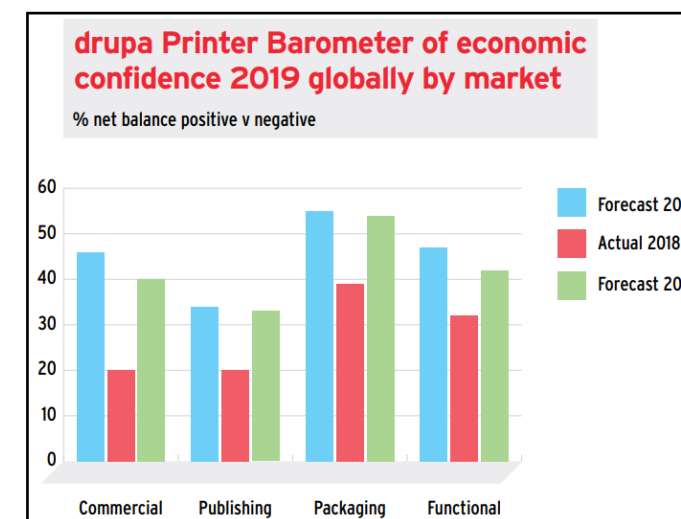
## drupa's Global Trends Report

The 6th drupa Global Trends Report is now available: [https://www.drupa.com/en/Press/Global\\_Trends/Global\\_Trends\\_Overview](https://www.drupa.com/en/Press/Global_Trends/Global_Trends_Overview). An executive summary can be downloaded for free.

It shows that both printers and suppliers expect the market and industry to improve

in 2019. Sabine Geldermann, Director drupa, Messe Duesseldorf, commented, "The report shows that with a little more than a year to go to drupa 2020, the global industry is in robust health overall".

'The global industry is in robust health overall' -  
drupa Director Sabine Geldermann



SOURCE: DRUPA 6TH GLOBAL TRENDS REPORT

## How to print more efficiently

Lastly, the cross-industry collaborative project Optimised Paper Handling & Logistics has produced a free best practice guide, available online or printed, on improving efficiency for print production. It is available here: <http://www.ophal.info/>



SOURCE: OPTIMISED PAPER HANDLING & LOGISTICS



## Join the Conversation!

# New member of the FTA Secretariat

In February 2019, I joined the FTA Europe Secretariat as Membership and Information Officer.

I am responsible for the association's communications and providing day-to-day support to the members. I also monitor policy at EU level which impacts flexo printers. I work in the Brussels office, which FTA Europe shares with Intergraf - the European association for print and digital communication.

If you would like any further information about FTA Europe's activities or have a suggestion for content for the next edition of the newsletter (September 2019), get in touch!

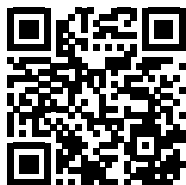


Annie Scanlan  
FTA Europe Membership and Information Officer

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