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Association News

Packaging: The topic of this year... and the next!

Packaging is the topic of this year, and will certainly remain as such for 2023! On 30 November, the European Commission published its proposal for the amendment of the existing Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive, which now becomes a Regulation. This means that the new rules are binding and are applicable to all EU member states. You will find more information about the new Regulation in the next pages, at the "EU Policy Corner" section of our newsletter.

As packaging is a "hot topic", our conference Shaping the Future with Packaging comes with the perfect timing. Organised by FTA Europe, Intergraf and Smithers, the conference will take place on **Thursday 9 and Friday 10 March 2023**, at hotel [Le Plaza](#), in Brussels, Belgium.

Market report

Participants will receive free of charge the European Packaging Market Report 2023, containing both Smithers' market data and an overview of the conference.

Agenda

The agenda for Shaping the Future with Packaging is filling up with some fantastic speakers, covering all corners of the European packaging industry.

Speakers include:

Mattia Pellegrini, Head of Unit DG Environment at the European Commission

The new EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

Tom Hallam, Project Director for Packaging at Smithers

European packaging market: the latest data

Olga Munroe, Head of the Retail Institute at Leeds Beckett University

Sustainable strategies of UK retailers – case study

Susanne Lippitsch, SL Design

Opportunities and challenges from the perspective of a packaging designer

Peter Ragaert, Director of Pack4Food and Professor of food packaging technology at Ghent University

Packaging sustainability

Joanna Stephenson, Founder of PHD Marketing
Event moderator

AIM or Holy Grail 2.0 project representative

Presentation of watermark Holy Grail 2.0



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FTA Europe's international travels

FTA Europe had a busy period the previous months. What were we up to?

President Sante Conselval (ATIF, IT) attended the third edition of the Prime Packaging Awards in Dubai on 9 November, as he was president of the jury.



The jury of the Prime Awards.



Winners of the 3rd edition of the Prime Awards.



Sante Conselvan presenting an award.

Right after the Prime Awards in Dubai, the FTA Europe President travelled to Brazil, to attend the ABFlexo Awards on the 10th of November. Mr Conselvan awarded the winner of the International category.

At the end of November, FTA Europe President visited Poland as well, to celebrate the 30 years of the Polish Chamber of Printing. Mr Conselvan was invited to discuss not only a future cooperation with PLFTA, but also the possibility of PLFTA joining FTA Europe as its 8th member.

Association News



Sante Conselvan with Jacek Kuśmierczyk, President of the Polish Chamber of Printing.



The FTA Europe President, gifting Ms Galyna Yerko a copy of the Flexo Best Practice Toolbox.

Sante Conselvan had moreover the opportunity to meet with the Polytechnic University of Ukraine. FTA Europe gifted a copy of the [Flexo Best Practice Toolbox](#) as support to the students in war times. The association would like to support the students with more copies of the Toolbox, translated in their language.



ATIF: BestInFlexo and Flexoday 2022: awards, future scenarios and training

BestInFlexo

ATIF's BestInFlexo 2022 received about 240 works of flexographic printing and welcomed more than 400 participants for the awards ceremony. The awards first started in 2015 by ATIF, the Italian Technical Association for Flexography, to promote excellence in this significant industrial sector. This year saw the introduction of a Jury Prize, a special mention chosen by a panel of jurors – brand representatives – to reward works that stand out for a particular quality. The prize will be extended to future editions and with that, the number of companies awarded by ATIF will expand. During the evening, the **Lifetime Achievement Award**, now in its fifth year, was granted to **Felice Rossini** for his long-standing career in flexography.

FlexoDay 2022

This year, the traditional ATIF conference was split into two parts, one marketing oriented and the other of a technical nature. During the first session, attended by approx. 330 people, guest economist **Fabio Papa** of **I-AER** and representatives of **Burgo** and **Taghleef** gave speeches, on the current economic and financial situation and its impact on SMEs, and on the latest developments in the paper and plastic substrates market, respectively. The session ended with an interview with **Gianangelo Cattaneo** (CEO of PLASTIK) by **Armando Garosci** (Largo Consumo).

The second day, attended by 350 people, was moderated by the impeccable **Chiara Bezzi** from **Rassegna dell'Imballaggio**.



Members News

In his opening speech, the President of ATIF, **Marco Gambardella**, reported on the economic scenario on Italy's paper-converting sector (Assografici data), the market data for flexo machines on a global scale (Acimga data), and the Association's main activities. The session then continued with the usual technical contributions by representatives of the **ATIF Technical Committee** on the new method of measuring tonal value of colour (CVT) in flexography (**Stefano d'Andrea**) and on the new PRX-PQX communication standards for better client-printer interaction (**Carlo Carnelli**). **Ira Nicoletti** then spoke on behalf of the ATIF Education Commission to present the Association's training projects. INCIFLEX, ROSSINI and UTECO, partners of the 2022 event, then presented their reports, while **Stefano Capelli** and **Michele Bondani** respectively spoke on

the European emission legislation and on marketing in relation to packaging. Finally, Diego Pellegrini, a student of CFP SAN MARCO MESTRE – VENICE, was awarded the **BestStudentInFlexo** prize, sponsored by **ENIP-GCT**, for his dissertation on flexography. Diego will receive a scholarship from I&C GAMA.



EFTA Benelux news!

EFTA Benelux Flexo Awards 2023

EFTA-Benelux offers a unique opportunity at the EFTA Flexo Awards to maintain the visibility of your products or services to a selective target group of decision-makers, processors, and end-users within the Benelux through this event in front of approximately 200 people from the flexo industry.



The deadline for submission is 18 September 2023, but don't forget to start selecting print samples of excellent products NOW!

EFTA Benelux Technical Seminar 2022

On Tuesday 15 November, EFTA-Benelux organised a Seminar about Energy Saving. The location of the Seminar was well chosen: the old power station of the Railway Museum in Utrecht.

As a result of the war in Ukraine, people in the Benelux are facing high energy prices. During this well-attended event, four speakers gave introductions on energy saving.

Hans van Collenburg elaborated on the topic of Drying techniques. He explained how to

save energy, by reducing exhaust airflow and post-treatment by thermal combustion and the use of heat recovery.

André Lauckhart took the audience through a novelty: short-wave infrared drying. During his talk, he explained the short drying times of ink and the reduction of residual solvents and odours with Shortwave Infrared Drying.

Wim Buyle talked about low-energy post-combustion. He explained this by elaborating on the operation of regenerative thermal afterburner and energy recovery thanks to the afterburner.

Gerard Brieko took the audience through the evolution of UV-LED lamps. He talked about the growth of the UV-LED market, the developments of UV-LED Chips and the importance of 'cooling-management'. The use of UV-LED in various InkJet applications was also discussed.

The seminar ended with a great networking reception!



Members News

EFTA Vitamine: Save the Date



The first EFTA Vitamin, a new concept of EFTA-Benelux, took place on 6 October. On 12 January 2023, the Kick-off will take place with Roel Seele, Chairman of EFTA-Benelux, about Migration. This will be followed every first Thursday of the month for up to 15 minutes, each time focusing on an important flexo industry topic.

EFTA-Benelux Flexo Academy

On 23 November, the sixth and final EFTA Flexo Academy of 2022 took place. Visiting Rudico Group in Eerbeek, the participants delved into the topics of qualities, inks and HQ printing.



After this session, the participants received their Flexo Academy diploma and were given a tour of the factories of Rudico Artwork & Prepress and Felco BV.

Many companies face a shortage of well-trained staff. For this reason, EFTA-Benelux offers companies in the Flexo industry a solution by offering a training programme that covers all important topics in the flexo industry. After all, working on knowledge is not a cost but an investment! Next year, there will be another Flexo Academy School. The dates will be announced soon.

ATF Flexo's 23rd Congress: The world is changing, flexo is adapting

ATF Flexo's 23rd CONGRESS: "The world is changing, Flexo is adapting" took place on December 15, 2022, in Dijon.

The topic of the congress is inspired by the everchanging state of the world and the need to adapt to new circumstances. ATF Flexo celebrated in Dijon at the Cité de la Gastronomie inaugurated last May. The association was very happy to welcome its delegates, for its 40th anniversary celebration!

This year's program focused on gastronomy (of course) and sharing: opinions, knowledge, and expertise. ATF organised a congress that was original and inspiring for its guests. Arnaud le Berrigaud, a "Packaging expert" spoke on how to face the challenges of the future,

regarding reuse, recycling and reducing waste. Philippe Dessertine spoke on "How to plan for the world the day after". In a world with uncertainty, with an unpredictable economic situation, Philippe's guidance is known to help companies get through difficult times with optimal solutions.

The day ended with the 35th ceremony of the Flexostars competition which rewarded the best French flexo prints of 2022, before the unmissable gala dinner, which took place in Le Cellier de Clairvaux, an impressive Cistercian Gothic style cellar, founded by the Abbey of Clairvaux in the XIII century, right in the historical center of Dijon.

ATEF: A day dedicated to Flexography

On 10 November 2022, ATEF had a full day of celebrating flexography, with the "DIA DE LA FLEXOGRAFIA". The day started with technical presentations and the national awards ceremony followed in the afternoon. Due to the pandemic, ATEF delivered two awards ceremonies, for 2020 and 2022.



Events

2023

JANUARY

26/01/2023 FIA UK Flexographic Market Insights & Networking Event, Hilton Double Tree – Leeds, UK

FEBRUARY

9-11/02/2023 LABEL EXPO Southeast Asia 2023, Bitec, Bangkok

MARCH

9-10/03/2023 FTA Europe & Intergraf with Smithers - "Shaping the Future with Packaging" Conference, Brussels, Belgium

APRIL

17/04/2023 FIA UK closing date for entries for the 2023 awards competition

25-26/04/2023 FIA UK Jury Session for the awards competition

MAY

2-6/05/2023 METPACK, Messe Essen, Essen, Germany

4-10/05/2023 INTERPACK, Düsseldorf, Germany

18/05/2023 FIA UK Golf Day, Leeds, UK

JUNE

15/06/2023 FIAUK Awards Gala Dinner, location TBC

NOVEMBER

9/11/2023, EFTA Benelux Flexo Awards, Hilton, Antwerp, Belgium

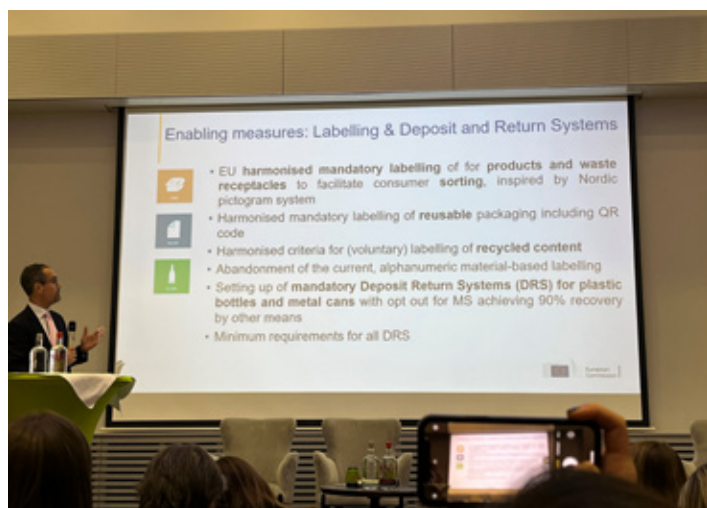


The new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)

On November 30th, the European Commission presented the proposal to amend the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive. The Directive has been amended into a Regulation, meaning that the rules are binding and ensure harmonisation in all member states.

FTA Europe attended EUROPE's event "Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation, Unfolded", which offered some first insights on the PPWR proposal, with Mattia Pellegrini's (DG ENV) presentation.

Mr Pellegrini will also speak on packaging and packaging waste at the Shaping the Future with Packaging Conference. The proposed legislation on packaging does not only provide new national prevention and recycling targets but also provides prescriptive requirements directly applicable to manufacturers and their suppliers. [Join us in Brussels on 9 and 10 March to learn how they will apply to your industry.](#)



The requirements will apply directly to economic operators and the harmonisation aspect is especially focused at the end of the packaging life cycle.

Core measures on waste prevention and re-use

The measures include national packaging waste reduction targets, minimising unnecessary packaging and imposing re-use/refill targets on economic operators per sector and packaging type.

Full recyclability of packaging by 2030

All packaging items have to undergo a recyclability assessment procedure, to assure they meet the design for recycling (DfR) criteria established in a Delegated Act. Packaging will be assigned a grade from A to E according to its score of compliance with the DfR criteria. Packaging scoring in grade (E), will be banned from the market as from 2030. The performance grades A-D will be the basis of the EPR fees.

Packaging containing plastic parts will also see some ambitious targets for 2030 and 2040.

Labelling and Deposit and Return Systems (DRS)

Labelling to facilitate consumer sorting, inspired by the Nordic pictogram system, will be mandatory. Reusable packaging will also be required to carry a mandatory label, including a QR code. Moreover, a label on recycled content is suggested on a voluntary basis. Deposit Return Systems (DRS) for plastic bottles and metal cans will be mandatory.

Compostability requirements

After 2 years from the entry into force of the Regulation, tea and coffee bags, tea and coffee single serve systems, fruit and vegetable sticky labels and very lightweight plastic carrier bags need to be compostable.

Questions raised

The Regulation has omitted certain significant aspects for a proper systemic change. What about controlling imports outside the EU? What is the role of public authorities? And what is the cost for consumers?

Industry News

DRUPA's 8th Global Trends Report

The report shows that the packaging market is currently the strongest, but commercial, publishing and functional markets show signs of recovery in 2023 when compared to 2019. Asia and South America's trading for 2023 is looking brighter than Europe's, due to the consequences from the Russian/Ukrainian war.

Read more [here](#).

European Labelstock Recovers in Q3 After Paper Shortage in Q2

According to FINAT, in the third quarter of 2022, labelstock demand in Europe rebounded strongly, after a poor first half of the year caused by paper shortages. For the first three quarters of 2022, the European label industry recorded a growth of 1.7% compared to the same period last year.

Read more [here](#).

Self-Heating Food Packaging Market Expected to Grow

The self-heating food packaging market share is expected to increase by 1.51 billion USD from 2021 to 2026 according to a report analysis by Technavio. Some of the key factors for this growth include the growing demand for convenient packaging and processed food.

Read more [here](#).

Corporate Commitments to Lower Plastic Pollution Have Little Impact

Commitments made by the world's biggest companies emphasize plastic recycling over lowering plastic production. "About 80% of a product's environmental impacts are determined when it's being designed. As of 2015, only 9% of the world's plastic was recycled. Most went to landfill, while 12 percent was incinerated, venting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Roughly 11 million tonnes of plastic flows into the ocean each year, and this number is expected to almost double by 2040."

Read more [here](#).

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