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FTA Europe: The European Flexographic Industry Association

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Association News

Shaping the Future with Packaging: paving the way to a sustainable future

Shaping the Future with Packaging was organised by FTA Europe and Intergraf, the European federation for the printing industry, and was supported by market research firm Smithers. The event welcomed nearly 120 participants from all over Europe (and beyond!). Members and participants received a copy of the European Packaging Market Report 2023 containing both Smithers' market data and an overview of the conference.



Moderated by Joanna Stephenson, Founder and Director of PHD Marketing, Shaping the Future with Packaging brought together leaders of Europe's packaging industry for two days of learning and collaboration, on 9 & 10 March, in Brussels, Belgium. One thing was clear: focusing on sustainability is no longer optional, it's mandatory. All speakers remarked that the packaging supply chain has a key role to play in the green transition.

Speakers

World Without Waste. Francisco Nogueira, Packaging Innovation Manager at The Coca-Cola Company.

Market insights: European packaging sector. Tom Hallam, Project Director, Packaging Consultancy at Smithers.

The EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation. Maja Desgrées du Loû, Desk Officer (DG Environment) at the European Commission.

Sustainable strategies of UK retailers – case study. Olga Munroe, Head of The Retail Institute at Leeds Beckett University.

Opportunities and challenges in packaging design. Susanne Lippitsch, Packaging Designer at SL Design.

Sustainability of food packaging – a multidisciplinary approach. Peter Ragaert, Director of Pack4Food and Professor of Food Packaging Technology at Ghent University.

Recycling – presenting the watermark 'Holy Grail 2.0'. Jan 't Hart, HG2.0 Project Manager at AIM (European Brands Association).

Moderator. Joanna Stephenson, Managing Director of PHD Marketing, Marketing Director of FIA UK, and Co-Founder of Women in Packaging.

Welcome address. Jesper Jungersen, Vice President of Intergraf.

Welcome address. Sante Conselvan, President of FTA Europe.

Sponsors

Shaping the Future with Packaging would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors!



The Polish Chamber of Flexographers joins FTA Europe!

The Polish Chamber of Flexographers (PLFTA), the organization bringing together companies involved in the flexographic industry, joins FTA Europe as its eighth member association!

The Polish Chamber of Flexographers' members include printing houses, corrugated board manufacturers, and suppliers of components and software. The chamber aims to care for its members, support their economic and organizational initiatives, provide consultation, and create a platform for information exchange.

One of the main goals of PLFTA is to change the negative perception of the flexographic industry as an environmental polluter. The industry is moving towards recycling, refillable, biodegradable, and compostable packaging, and PLFTA is working to educate young people and future professionals about these advancements.

By joining FTA Europe, PLFTA can benefit from knowledge and experience exchange, improving the level of flexographic knowledge through conferences, seminars, and trainings. The chamber also plans to influence printing school education and network with similar organizations abroad.

As consumer requirements and demands grow, the flexographic industry is seeing increased success in the printing of flexible packaging and corrugated cardboard. New trends such as intelligent, active, or refillable packaging and environmental protection are shaping the future of the industry. PLFTA is committed to adapting to the principles of the European Green Deal and achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Joining FTA Europe will allow the Polish Chamber of Flexographers to have a common language,

cooperate, and exchange information to overcome challenges and achieve its goals. By working together, the flexographic industry can make a positive impact on the planet and contribute to a greener future.



"There are many challenges and difficult times ahead of us. That's why we decided to join FTA Europe. This will allow us to exchange knowledge and experience."

- Krzysztof Skrobot, Director of PLFTA

The Flexo Best Practice Toolbox is available in French!

[FTA Europe's Flexo Best Practice Toolbox](#) is now available in French! The Toolbox, is now available in French, English, Italian, Dutch, and Portuguese, for iOS and Android devices. This new language version has been translated to cater to the needs of the French-speaking flexographic printing community.

This comprehensive resource is designed to help improve print quality, efficiency, and profitability, and is an essential tool for anyone involved in the flexographic printing process.

The Flexo Best Practice Toolbox covers a wide range of topics, including prepress, plate-making, inks, substrates, press setup, and maintenance. It provides detailed guidance on best practices for each stage of the printing process, as well as troubleshooting tips and practical advice to help solve common problems.

By making the Toolbox available in multiple languages, FTA Europe is demonstrating its commitment to supporting the printing industry across Europe.

[Get your copy of the Flexo Best Practice Toolbox here!](#)



EFTA Benelux news

EFTA Flexo Awards

On Thursday, November 9, 2023, the EFTA-Benelux Flexo Awards will be presented for the fifth time in the Hilton Hotel in Antwerp.

Submissions for EFTA Flexo Awards 2023

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

Sponsorship

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 for approximately 200 people from the flexo industry.

Want to know more about sponsorship opportunities? Visit this link: <https://efta.nl/award/sponsoring.html>

Meet the jury

MEET THE JURY EFTA FLEXO AWARDS 2023

Jan Duffhues
Oprichter en eigenaar
JD4PPConsultancy

Dan Pulling
Product Manager
Flexo Technologies Hybrid Software

Lotte Krekels
Packaging Manager
Carrefour Belgium

Sandra Schorn
Print Development Specialist
FrieslandCampina

Axel de Wee
Packaging Pre-press Manager
Froq brandservices

EFTA Flexo Academy

Due to the lack of good flexo training in the Benelux, EFTA-Benelux has set up the EFTA Flexo Academy. In just five days of training, both new employees and those who have been working in the flexo industry for some time acquire all the knowledge and skills required for the production of, among other things, packaging in flexo printing technology. At the end of the course, students who follow the entire course will have mastered all aspects of flexo printing - including knowledge of materials, quality aspects, error recognition, peripheral equipment and printing form preparation.

Whether you are a printer or lab technician, or work in a more commercial or staff role at a packaging company: the masterclasses are ideal for improving your knowledge.

The first course day of the EFTA Flexo Academy will start on April 12. This course day will be devoted to the introduction to flexo and will be organized at Rudico in Eerbeek. Register via the button below for the entire series or a course day of your choice!

EFTA FLEXO ACADEMY 2023 PROGRAMMA

ONDERWERP	INTRO	MATERIALEN	INKTEN & KLEURLEER	LABEL EXPO	RANDAPPARATUUR
DATUM	12 APRIL	17 MEI	14 JUNI	13 SEPTEMBER	11 OKTOBER
CURSUSLEIDER	MARTHIN FLOKSTRA	HENK EDZES	JOHAN KERSEBOOM & DIRK GOETHALS	DIRK GOETHALS	ROEL SEELE
LOCATIE	RUDICO	NTB	NTB	LABEL EXPO	NTB

SAVE THE DATE - EFTA Seminar 1 June 2023

On Thursday, June 1, 2023, EFTA-Benelux will organize its annual spring seminar. Put this date in your diary, more information will follow!

Members News

Bridging generational gaps in Flexo - FIA UK announces new Shadow Board

The Flexographic Industry Association (FIAUK), a leading association that represents the flexographic printing and packaging industry in the UK, has announced the appointment of a Shadow Board.

Mirroring the main FIAUK board, the Shadow Board has been established to provide young flexo industry members with a voice on the future of the industry, to encourage new talent into the sector and to provide a younger viewpoint on communication going forward.

Launching in February, the group will be responsible for driving and managing key projects that align with the long-term goals of the flexo sector, and feed into the main FIAUK board.

Debbie Waldron-Hoines, Consultant CEO of the Board at FIAUK, said: "The flexo industry, as well as the wider printing and packaging industry, is facing a real challenge in attracting the next generation of professionals. As a result, we see 'brain drain'; a lot of our legacy knowledge and hard-won expertise naturally ageing out of the workforce. Of course, we know the flexographic industry as an exciting, dynamic and advanced sector – but typically, we have not communicated that very well and now see a real shortfall in people joining the industry.

"By appointing a Shadow Board comprising individuals aged 25-35, we are further playing our part in securing the future of flexo, guiding its ongoing momentum and replenishing the talent pool. For us, it is about giving young flexographic printing professionals a voice and seeing challenges through their lens. They are the future of the industry, so naturally

we want to give them hands-on experience of long-term industry projects with real weight and get their perspective on how we can build a stronger talent attraction and retention pipeline."

The Shadow Board appointments include staff between the ages of 25 and 35, from FIAUK Diamond Plus Partner Sun Chemical, as well as FIAUK Diamond Partners Smurfit Kappa, Siegwirk, Sandon Global and Absolute Engineering and Ruby Partner Nelipak.

Debbie adds: "The driving force behind FIAUK is to accelerate industry progress and advocate for its long-term interests, meaning we cannot only focus on today's sector needs. Our Shadow Board, comprising skilled individuals from partner businesses, goes far beyond a taskforce – it's planting the seeds of future industry success and ensuring that tomorrow's flexo leaders can make an impact today."

For more information on FIAUK or its activities, please visit the website at www.fiauk.co.uk.



Events

2023

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

23/11/2023 FIA UK Diamond Partners' Event, location TBC

2024

MAY

30/05/2024 FTA Europe Diamond Awards, Düsseldorf, Germany

Partners

AsahiKASEI

Asahi Photoproducts
an Asahi Kasei company

Best Quality. Carbon Neutral.

AWP™-DEW

Water-washable premium plate with CleanPrint

This water-washable plate is ideal for highest quality flexo applications, including flexible packaging and labels. It features CleanPrint technology for sustainable reduction of the printers' carbon footprint.

A printer's Sustainable Choice!

AWP

For Cleaner Flexo, Think CleanPrint. Think Asahi!

applicable for AWP™-DEW in Europe, Japan, US and China

CARBON TRUST CERTIFIED

The carbon footprint of this product has been certified carbon neutral

CleanPrint for a Sustainable Flexo Printing Future.

ASAHI-PHOTOPRODUCTS.COM

