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Subject: FTA Europe March 2026 Newsletter
Date: 5 March 2026 at 13:25
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FTA MEMBERS



Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2026

UPCOMING 2026 EVENTS

- Poland** (16 – 18 March) – Polish Chamber Conference
- UK** (26 March) – FIA UK Industry event, Leeds
- Spain** (9 April) - Flexo Gala Dinner
- Benelux** (23 April) – EFTA Benelux Theme Day, Breda
- Sweden** (27 – 28 May) – SWEFLEX Flexo 2.0 Seminar, Varberg
- UK** (11 June) - FIA UK Industry Awards Dinner, Liverpool
- FTA Europe Diamond Awards** (29 October) in Barcelona
- Italy** (25 – 26 November) – ATIF FlexoDay & Awards, Milan





Save the Date
FTA Europe Diamond Awards 2026
29 October | Barcelona, Spain

 **Book Tickets | Be a Sponsor**

Contact - info@fta-europe.eu

The countdown is on.

The FTA Europe Diamond Awards 2026, organised by FTA Europe promise to be one of the most prestigious evenings in the European flexographic calendar.

Held every two years, the Diamond Awards bring together the very best of our industry. Gold winners from national associations across Europe will compete for the ultimate honour – the Diamond Award – recognising excellence, innovation and technical achievement in flexographic printing.

This is more than an awards ceremony – it's a celebration of the people, companies and technologies shaping the future of packaging.

🌟 Sponsorship Opportunities Now Open

Position your brand on a powerful European executive stage and align with excellence at the highest level.

Sponsorship offers:

- **Premium visibility before and during the event**
- **Direct access to senior decision-makers**
- **Association with Europe's top-performing print companies**
- **A unique platform to showcase your leadership and innovation**

🌟 Excellence. Innovation. Celebration. 🌟

PRIORITIES FOR 2026

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Insights from FTA Europe and the FTA Global Alliance highlight four defining themes:

Sustainability Is Structural

Now embedded in investment, compliance, market access and competitiveness.

Focus: circular design, recyclability, fibre sourcing, regulatory readiness.

Skills & Education

A widening gap between theory and hands-on readiness.

Actions: stronger technical centres, expanded seminars/webinars, youth engagement, global best-practice exchange.

Technical Excellence

Colour control, automation, AI, Big Data and Expanded Colour Gamut (ECG). Scalable innovation for SMEs is key.

Global Collaboration

Broader international coordination, stronger LinkedIn presence, quarterly glob newsletter and cross-promotion of events.

Flexography is increasingly aligned across regions.

EU Policy





EUDR: Clarity for European Print in 2026

Regulatory certainty has arrived with the finalisation of the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR). According to **Intergraf**, trilogue negotiations delivered important improvements for print:

Key Outcomes

- **One-year delay**
- **Simplified supply chain requirements**
- **Review clause by April 2026**
- **Printed products under HS Code 49 excluded**
- **Paper remains in scope, meaning material compliance remains essential**

For an SME-dominated sector, proportional implementation is critical. EU-produced printed products meeting EUDR standards by default reflects the industry's strong responsible sourcing record.

At the January 2026 meeting of the FTA Global Alliance, regulatory monitoring was confirmed as a global priority.

Clear direction: regulation must enable sustainable growth — not restrict innovation.



Market Insights

Investment Defines Competitive Advantage

Data from Intergraf shows structural transformation:

- Traditional print declining
- Packaging & labels resilient
- Digital & hybrid investment rising
- Energy/material margins under pressure
- Sustainability shaping capex
- Skills driving productivity investment

FTA Global Alliance discussions confirm mixed global growth and inflation-linked caution.

“Targeted efficiency investment + sustainability + skills development will define competitiveness in 2026 and beyond.”



Member Spotlight

ATEF held the jury session for the 18th National Flexography Awards at the headquarters of the Graphispack Association in Plaza España, Barcelona. Recognised as one of Spain's leading industry initiatives, the National Flexography Awards promote flexography as an efficient, versatile and highly competitive printing process. More than 170 entries were assessed by an independent panel of respected industry experts.

Evaluation criteria included:

- Innovation in methods and techniques
- Screen quality and text sharpness
- Colour consistency, intensity and contrast
- Registration accuracy and line ruling
- Plate uniformity and ink suitability
- Print and converting complexity
- Sustainability performance
- Overall absence of defects

The winners will be announced at the FlexoShow Gala on 9 April at Bodega Familia Torres, where industry leaders will gather to celebrate technical excellence and innovation.

Driving excellence. Showcasing innovation. Representing Spain on the European stage.

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