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## New Presidency for UNIEP 2016



Mr Helmut Schulz  
UNIEP President

2016 is the year of changes for UNIEP. Mr Helmut Schulz has been elected as new UNIEP President by the General Assembly in Munich on 3rd March, succeeding Mr Markus Straube who dedicated many years to the development of the European Association of Painting Contractors. Mr Schulz has started to work as a Painter, and he is currently President of the Bundesinnung der Maler und Tapezierer - Austrian Federal Guild of Painters. For many years he has been responsible for apprenticeship, building strong links with Professional Schools.



Mr Markus Straube  
Former UNIEP President

Since 2006 he is also active at community level, dealing with regional policies making the interests of Painters in Austria. The newly elected UNIEP President pledged to the Members to deserve their confidence for the future and offered his cooperation to move forward with combined actions and efforts.

"One of my main goals - he said - is to create a more stable network among UNIEP members and to ensure all members' commitment for the future of the Painters' profession".

The General Assembly 2016 in Munich has been first of all the occasion to gather all Members and guests discussing about the economic situation and state of the art of education and training in the painting sector as well as the new initiatives for UNIEP. The creation of the European Painting Partners – EPP, the new entity associating manufactures and painters associated and is part of many initiatives. As Mr Di Mauro affirmed, it is now time not only to find a European and common painter profession, but also to start with projects and education institutions. At this regard the General Assembly was dedicated to the presentation of the results of ongoing projects and representatives from different painting schools in



UNIEP General Assembly 2016 Munich

Germany. Mr Sven Ebert from SBG (Germany) presented the project «PaintingSkillsNetwork– European future of the painting trade» and Mr Lars Fredenlund, from coBuilder (Norway) showed to the participants the results of the project «ProductInfoXchange». Finally, and in order to broaden the European spectrum of UNIEP, representatives from different countries have been elected as Members of the Board: Mr André Mertens (BE), Mr Ole Draborg (DK) Tommy O' Malley (IR), Mrs Rachel Pellé (FR), Mr Ermanno Molinari (IT), Mr Stuart Seddon (UK), Mr Alain Kuttner (LU), Mr Igor Pipan (SL) and Mr Claudius Wolfrum (GE) – new member of UNIEP from Germany.

to the intervention of representative painting schools in

## Painting Contractors' European Alliance with Manufacturers

In the last years, the trade painting sector in Europe has been experiencing two major problems: the lack of young people entering the profession and the lack of skills in education and training. In order to bridge the gap between education and market needs, UNIEP has started a wide cooperation with all actors of the sector in Europe proposing very specific actions. Through the creation of a new entity – the European Painting Partners (EPP) –, UNIEP wishes to involve other European Associations producing material or tools used in the construction sector, in a series of much targeted projects. Two projects are going to be launched immediately. First, the European Painting Partners' website will guarantee the exchange of information and initiatives through a communication platform, used by members and partners of the Association. The EPP website is expected to be as open and clear as possible, in order to create a public front to show all its partners and to link schools/students, painting companies/apprentices with Painting Contractors' associations and Manufacturers. Secondly, the Euro Paint Innovations' project will launch networking meetings in order to gather the key stakeholders in the Construction and Painting sector (i.e. Manufacturers, Professional Associations and VET Institutions). In order to reach the project's goal to inform/form trainers and students on new techniques and innovation, UNIEP has started to analyse the state of the art on Education and Training in the Painting sector in Europe and to define needs of the labour market/companies. On the basis of the results, information sessions will be organised in different geographical areas, starting with Southern countries, Central Europe and Scandinavian Countries.



### UNIEP joins “Reforme” for mobility of apprentices

UNIEP recently concluded an agreement with the European “Reforme” network, gathering eleven professional training organizations in construction.

The cooperation is concretely moving the first steps.

In March UNIEP attended for the first time a Reforme meeting in Madrid, where UNIEP Secretary General presented to the participants the association and the new initiatives for 2016 on image of the profession, higher skilled vocational training and apprenticeship.

Within the agreement, UNIEP has been asked for cooperation in a concrete project: “BTP Mobilité + 2016”, where it will work together with CCCA-BTP to find suitable Painting companies to host French trainees. Partners involved in the project come from different countries (Spain, Italy, Germany and Belgium) and professional groups: three main teams of apprentices with EQF level 3 and 4 (trainees attending a Professional Certificate with a European component (i.e. painters), trainees of the public work sector (i.e. pipe layers and road builders) and trainees attending training paths.



## Convention's signature for the Painting Skills Network



Last 16th April, UNIEP and Saxon Education Company for Environmental Protection and Chemical Occupations signed the "Convention of the European network for vocational training in the painting trade" (Painting Skills Network).

Painting Skills Network (PSN) is an open, voluntary alliance of European VET institutions, enterprises and professional associations of the painting trade, created in the framework of a European project co-funded by the Erasmus + Program.

Members of the Alliance are committed to the objectives of the European VET policy and the guidelines of the European Union's strategy for jobs and smart, sustainable and inclusive growth "Europe 2020". The network aims to increase the attractiveness of training in the craft of painting and to improve the employability of graduates.

The project is the first step for a new form of international cooperation in vocational training (i.e. transnational project learning) in the painters' profession sector. The concrete results of the project will be methodology workshops for teachers, aiming to transfer best-practices and provide methodological and didactic exchange of experience among teachers; learning outcome-oriented mobility consisting in training periods completed abroad and multilateral student camps used to test the developed methodology in workshops learning scenarios.

During the event in Dresden a check list for trainers/teachers for methodological and didactic training concept has been presented as well as a detailed guidebook of 12 units of learning outcomes, which will be translated in English and spread among stakeholders by the end of May 2016. In addition, PSN will launch a web 2.0-based information and communication platform for the use of digital media in vocational training, which will ensure the network development and operation.

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### ProductInfoXchange

ProductInfoXchange project, started in 2013, has come to the end, so it is time now to disseminate the results and the achievements of a three years work, in which UNIEP had the possibility to work with different entities coming from several European Countries.

As Mr Lars Fredenlund – coBuilder (Norway) – affirmed during UNIEP General Assembly 2016, ProductInfoXchange is a valuable tool for the work of painters, aiming to create a system providing information on specific chemical elements contained in construction products and instructions for use. The tool is also useful to define rules on specific environmental requirements or acid level to be respected. The innovation within this tool, created thanks to the EU funding, is that information on the product is provided through the mobile phone, simply scanning the bar code. A dictionary, drafted in cooperation with UNIEP and FIEC (European Association of Contractors), is part of the project as well.

UNIEP is proud to have taken part of a European project, willing to continue the cooperation with the consortium partners and to be part of new European projects in the next years.



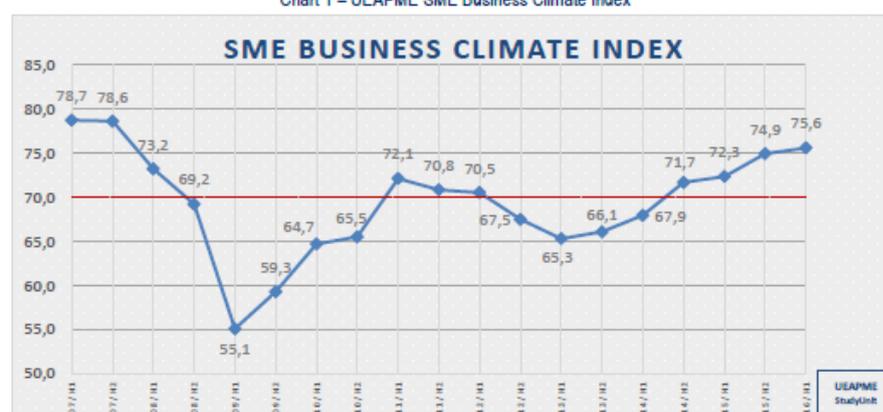
## SMEs Barometer 2015-2016

UEAPME Study Unit recently presented the EU Craft and SME barometer 2016/H1 at EU level.

The SME Business Climate Index refers to small and medium businesses and it is calculated as the average of the current situation and the expectations about the next period. This index has reported stable and positive business situations and expectations for the entire 2016, despite the current migrant crisis, the collapse of the commodities price and the Brexit case have been under debate. In fact this complicate political situation has influenced the index: its trend presents a low growth.

If we consider the analysis of the disaggregation between countries of the North and Centre and of the South and Periphery we can notice two essential things. First of all in the Northern part, because of a dichotomy between some countries (for example United Kingdom or Austria, where economies are having difficulties, and Central-Eastern countries, instead, which are developing), the climate index is high, but rather stable. In the South, instead, the situation is more changeable: if Greece is still tackling the problem of its recession, on the other hand Spain and Ireland have a trend clearly positive.

Chart 1 – UEAPME SME Business Climate Index



The index is calculated as an average of companies that have reported positive or stable business situations and expect a positive or stable development for the next period. Therefore, the index can range from 100 (all positive or neutral) to 0 (all negative).

With regard to the EU Craft and SME Barometer for the second semester 2015 it has showed a good continuation of the SME sector's development. This is due to either the increase of investments and turnover or employment supported by labour market reforms launched in different European countries. SMEs estimate for the next semester that expectations should remain high and stable.

European Commission reported in the Economic Forecast "Winter 2016" that the internal demand has not boosted the construction sector. The figures in this field are positive, even though it is still a struggling sector because it is suffering from the two peaks of the crisis in 2008 and 2011-2012.

The main reason can be identified in the scarcity of investments in new buildings and habitations.

In light of the SMEs are still not out of the crisis, UEAPME suggests the following political recommendations:

- 1) Further monetary and structural reforms by EU and Member States to promote internal demand
- 2) Shared decisions at EU level with regard to delicate issues as the migrant crisis and the Brexit debate
- 3) Improved SMEs access to the finance
- 4) Increased investments by stimulating private and foreign investments.

## 2nd edition of the Chiari International Award

The Giuseppe Chiari International Award for Coatings Sciences is a prize promoted by CoRI, a Belgian non-profit organization aimed to encourage research in the paint, varnish and coatings industry. This prize is awarded every two years to pre-doctoral students, doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers who are involved in a University.

UNIEP supports this initiative through the participation in the Chiari International Award jury.

According to the "Europe Horizon 2020" plan covering both energy and climate, the first Award "How can paints and coatings have a positive impact on life conditions" focused on the reduction of greenhouses gases, generalization of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency and innovation.



The winner of the first edition, for the period from 2014 to 2015, was Cédric Marien, PhD student at the University of Strasbourg.

In the first quarter of 2016 the new Giuseppe Chiari International Award has been launched, with the title "On the road to the circular economy: Development of innovative coatings".

In order to assist business in their transitional moves towards the circular economy, CoRI works in partnership with manufacturing companies as part of a collaborative programme in order to create new products drawn from recycling. It also focuses on eco-design, which means taking account of the recycling of the product at the end of its service life from its very concept and design stage.

The scope of the current call 2016-2017 is to contribute to recycle materials, improve durability of coatings and develop new manufacturing process and use. The price will be awarded in October 2017.

## Posting of workers: European Commission proposal for Directive's

The delicate phenomenon of posting of workers has been under debate at EU level as it is linked to the free movement of citizens.

A **posted worker**, according to the Directive 96/71/EC, is an employee who is sent by his employer in another EU Member State for a limited period of time. The scope of the legislation, since its establishment, is to guarantee rights and rules to be applied to posted workers.

The European Commission recently proposed a revision of this Directive, in particular referring to the following topics:

1. Remuneration of posted workers: applying "equal pay for equal work" means that the revision does not interfere with the minimum wage accorded to the category of a posted worker but has to provide other sets of guarantees such as bonuses and allowances;
2. Subcontracting: Member States will have the possibility to apply to posted workers the same rules on remuneration that are binding on the main contractor, with the purpose to avoid discrimination with local companies;
3. Temporary Agency Work: equal treatment on remuneration has to be guaranteed not only for local temporary agency workers, but also for posted temporary agency workers.
4. Duration: posted workers for longer than two years would be treated in the same way as local workers in the host MS, with regard to most aspects of labour law.



Until Member States and European Parliament have agreed on this revision and the new rules have entered into force, the current rules remain in place. This revision will be transposed in a national law after the British referendum on 23 June.



## UNIEP

Union Internationale des Entrepreneurs  
de Peinture

The International Association of  
Painting Contractors

Rue Jacques de Lalaing 4  
B-1040 Brussels

Helmut Schulz

President

ing.schulz.keg@gmx.at

Patrizia Di Mauro

Secretary General

p.dimauro@uniep.eu

Ph:+ 32 2 285 07 24

Mobile: 0472 943883

Fax:+32 2 230 78 61

E-mail: p.dimauro@uniep.eu

Web site: www.uniep.org

## EVENTS

## UNIEP

## AGENDA

- ⇒ **6th June 2016, Prague:** International Conference "Value of Occupational Qualification and VET Quality within the Cross-Border Job Mobility
- ⇒ **14th June 2016, Strasbourg:** Uniep Board meeting
- ⇒ **15th September 2016, Italy:** Uniep Board meeting
- ⇒ **October 2017:** 2nd Edition "Chiari International Awards"- CoRI

## MEMBERS' MAGAZINES & PUBLICATIONS

PDA (UK) - [The Decorator](#), bi-monthly magazine

The Construction Confederation BOUW (B) - [Les aventures de l'Entreprise de peinture Robert](#)

UPMF (FR) - [Reflets & Nuances](#)