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FTA Europe: The European Flexographic Industry Association

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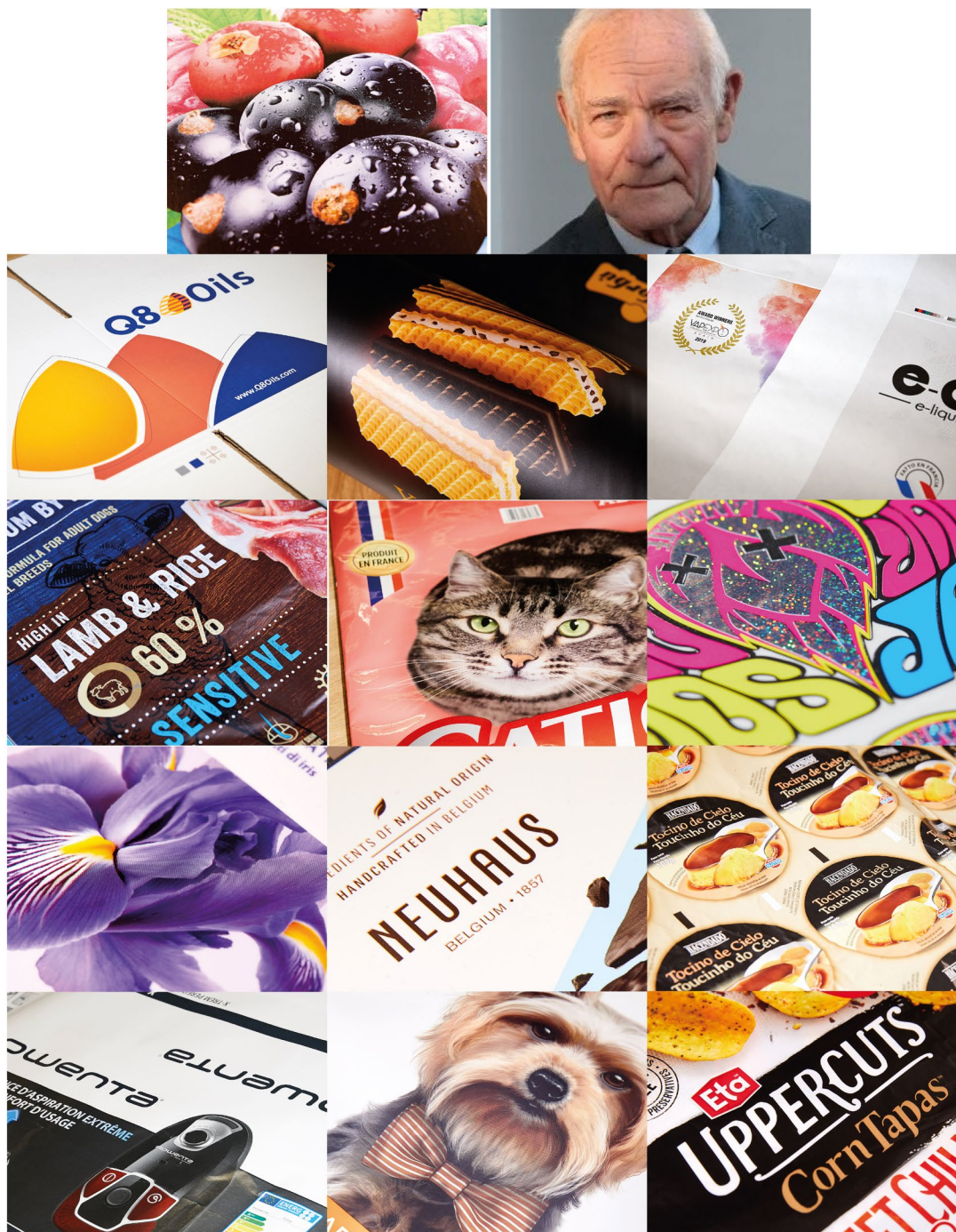
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Congratulations to the winners of the 2021 Diamond Awards!



Virtual Diamond Awards makes flexo history

On 22nd April, FTA Europe held its first virtual edition of the Diamond Awards. 583 people registered from 41 countries, tuning in to celebrate the winners in the style of the Roaring 1920s. The show was hosted by Anne De Baetzelier and our very own Vice President Wim Buyle. They brought us jokes, music, and even a cocktail making session to entertain the audience.

We judged over 180 samples to find the best of the best – therefore, all nominees deserve a huge congratulations!

The Best in Show award went to DS Smith Packaging Savoie for their product '¼ BOX Frucci', entered by our French member ATF. A special mention for their pre-press company Chemence Graphics.

For the first time ever, FTA Europe awarded the Lifetime Achievement for Outstanding Contribution to the European Flexographic Industry to Mr Jean-Pierre Bonnet. Mr Bonnet, Former President and current Honorary President of ATF France, accepted the award live via Zoom in an emotional memorable exchange with the hosts.

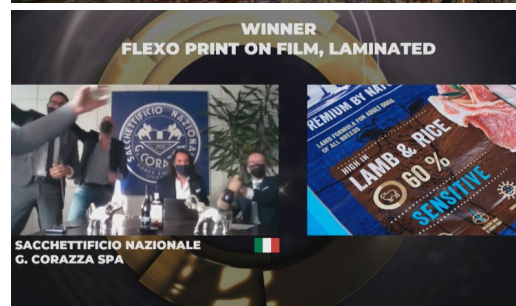
Whilst the event was taking place, the flexo community was once again united on the special Diamond Awards networking platform. After a challenging year with the ongoing crisis, it was finally time to celebrate and meet with colleagues. Although this can never replace connecting in person, we were honoured to play host to the flexo industry in the only way possible due to the ongoing global situation.

FTA Europe President Sante commented:

"Connecting companies at European level and promoting the industry is the reason for FTA Europe's existence.

Thank you to the finalists, attendees, and sponsors for being so enthusiastic and for being part of this historic third edition of the Diamond Awards."

The ceremony can be re-watched and all the winners viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2xlw4Jb>

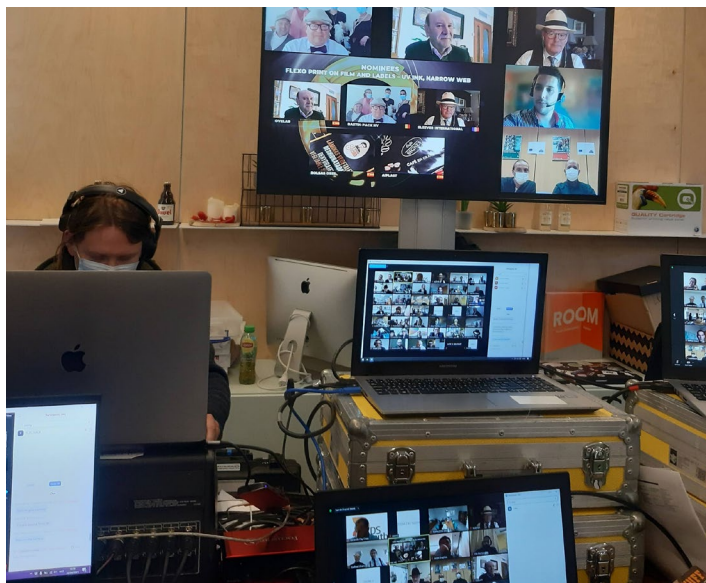


How did we make a virtual event?

The ongoing global pandemic had initially forced FTA Europe to postpone the awards to 2021. We then took the decision that, due to travel restrictions across Europe, we would be able to involve more people in the event if we went online.

FTA Europe is proud to have held an extremely interactive, inclusive, and professional TV-style

event. You might think that a 1-hour show does not take a lot of work. But behind the scenes, a team of 20 people worked for 4 months straight to produce all the content and technical tools to bring you the show on 22nd April. It was important for FTA Europe that the event both celebrated and involved the winners. As you can see below, there was a lot going on behind the scenes!



Despoina Melissinou: Your new Membership & Events Officer at FTA Europe and Intergraf

FTA Europe is very happy to welcome a new staff member: Despoina Melissinou. Despoina takes over from Annie Scanlan who left the association in May. Despoina is responsible for managing the FTA Europe secretariat, as well as organising Intergraf's events, and providing other support to the secretariat.

Despoina (fun fact: the 'o' is silent!) has a background in communications and events, starting her professional journey in the field after coming to Brussels for her Master's, in late 2018. She also recently received a diploma in digital marketing.

At FTA Europe Despoina will be responsible for association management, including running day to day activities, liaising with members, communications and events. She will moreover take care of event organisation for Intergraf and support the organisation where needed. Despoina's native language is Greek and she speaks English and a little Dutch.

Despoina can be contacted at dmelissinou@fta-europe.eu and dmelissinou@intergraf.eu.



Events

2021

SEPTEMBER

1-24/09/2021 Labelexpo Europe 2021, Brussels, BE

OCTOBER

6-8/10/2021 Absolute Flexo Future 2020 - Flexo technology in 2025, Halmstad, SE

NOVEMBER

04/11/2021 EFIA's national flexo awards, York, UK

10/11/2021 EFTA Benelux's national flexo awards, Antwerp, BE

17-18/11/2021 ATIF's national flexo awards and Flexo Day, Bologna, IT



Masterclass #4: substrates ([8 July](#))

Masterclass #5: laminates and bio-based materials ([23 September](#))

Masterclass #6: technical flexo printing: solvents, residual solvent content, surface tension and pre-treatment ([25 November](#))

[Sign up for the Masterclasses \(in Dutch\) here.](#)



European Commission publishes guidelines on implementation of the Single-Use Plastics Directive

On 5 June, Directive EU/2019/904 was published. Commonly known as the SUP (Single-Use Plastics) Directive, this legislation focuses on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment, aiming to prevent and reduce the impact on the environment of certain plastic products, and to promote a transition to a circular economy. It does so by introducing a mix of measures tailored to the products covered by the directive, including an EU-wide ban on certain single-use plastic products when there are alternatives.

The SUP Directive has to become law in EU countries by 3 July 2021. To support the implementation of this Directive, the Commission issued guidelines on 31 May 2021.

Single-use plastics are made wholly or partly of plastic and are typically intended to be used just once, or for a short period of time, before they are thrown away. The guidelines clarify that biodegradable/bio-based plastics are considered to be plastic. They also clarify that single-use paper-based products with plastic

“Packets and wrappers are among the products listed in the Directive - products that are typical flexible packaging products processed by the flexo industry.”

lining or coating are included in the scope of the Directive. When a plastic coating or lining is applied to the surface of a paper- or board-based or other material to provide protection against water or fat, the final product is considered a composite product composed of more than one material (of which one is plastic). In this case, the final product is seen as being made partly of plastic and therefore falls within the scope of the Directive.

The market ban is limited to cutlery (e.g. forks, knives, spoons, chopsticks), plates, straws, cotton bud sticks, beverage stirrers, balloon sticks, food containers made of expanded polystyrene, and products made from oxo-degradable plastic.

Other listed single-use plastic products will be subject to other measures. Packets and wrappers are among products listed in the Directive - products that are typical flexible packaging products processed by the flexo industry. They are in scope of the Directive when “made from flexible material containing food that is intended for immediate consumption without any further preparation”. Under the Directive, they are subject to an Extended Producer Responsibility scheme and awareness raising campaigns. The guidelines clarify that packets and wrappers of crisps, sweets, chocolate bars, biscuits, nuts, frozen goods in single units are in scope. So are wrappings for multiple-serve portions like bakery goods, as well as sandwich wrappers. On the contrary, packets of breakfast cereals or uncooked pasta are excluded from the scope of the Directive.

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We're committed to driving flexo even further – towards even better, cleaner, more cost-effective print. And we're not alone. We're proud of this community and the innovations we're enabling – redefining what packaging print can be.

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