

FTA Europe News

Association News 2

- A busy period for FTA Europe!
- Diamond Awards 2022: first sponsors confirmed

Members News 3-7

- Introducing FIA UK – the new name proudly representing the UK flexographic industry
- ATIF's BestInflexo and FlexoDay bring together the Italian flexo-community
- The flexo industry enjoys a fantastic evening at the FIA UK Awards 2021
- EFTA Benelux Flexo Awards 2021
- EFTA Flexo Academy 2022 becomes hybrid

Events 8

- Events update & EFTA Benelux

Flexo Academy 2022

EU Policy Corner 9

- Current developments on Food Contact Materials legislation

Industry News 10

- Outlook for 2022: Trends and disruptive innovations
- Flexible Packaging Market - Growth, Trends, COVID-19 Impact, and Forecasts (2021 - 2026)
- Brand Owners Spending More on Packaging
- World packaging demand to break \$1-trillion-mark in 2021 and reach \$1.22 trillion in 2026, according to latest Smithers analysis

Partners 11

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A busy period for FTA Europe!

FTA Europe and its members have had quite the busy period!

President Sante Conselvan (ATIF, IT), attended Sweflex & DanskFlexo Forum's Absolute Flexo Future 2021. The event took place at Halmstad, Sweden, on the 6th – 8th October 2021 and welcomed 180 participants. The event focused on the future and challenges of the flexo industry, new technologies and sustainability. President Conselvan moreover represented FTA Europe and gave his greetings at a meeting with ABFlexo, the Brazilian flexo association. He was also happy to attend the EFTA Benelux awards

on the 10th of November in Antwerp, Belgium, as well as ATF Flexo's (FR) 22 Congress on the 16th of December, at Chamonix, France, where he spoke about FTA Europe's recent activities.

To bring you some more exciting news, the European Flexographic Industry Association ('EFIA') had a major rebrand and changed its name to Flexographic Industry Association UK ('FIA UK').

So far, ATIF (IT), EFTA Benelux and FIA UK had their national award ceremonies, while ATF Flexo's ceremony took place yesterday evening.

Diamond Awards 2022: first sponsors confirmed



KOENIG & BAUER



miraclon



FTA Europe is excited to open sponsorship opportunities for the Diamond Awards 2022! The European flexo event of the year will take place on 5 May 2022 in the beautiful city of Milan, in the occasion of the Print4All exhibition. As with every Diamond Awards' ceremony, we offer a range of packages, with a limited number of sponsors for each sponsorship category.

We are delighted to announce that our loyal sponsors, I&C-Gama Group, Lohmann, Miraclon, Koenig & Bauer Flexotecnica, Siegwark and Soma, have already confirmed their support once more, by sponsoring next year's Awards!

If your company would also like to sponsor the event, contact us at dmelissinou@fta-europe.eu to learn more about the sponsorship packages we offer and be part of the biggest flexo event of the year!

For updates on the Diamond Awards 2022, don't forget to keep an eye on our [LinkedIn page](#) and [website](#).



Introducing FIA UK – the new name proudly representing the UK flexographic industry

The European Flexographic Industry Association ('EFIA') has changed its name to Flexographic Industry Association UK ('FIA UK') as part of a major rebrand.

The announcement was made to the industry at the Association's Gala Awards Dinner evening held on November 4th, 2021, at the National Railway Museum in York.

Neil Jones, Chairman of the FIA UK Board, said the new name better encompasses the Association's commitment to the UK flexographic market by ensuring the future needs of the industry and its members in the UK are being met.

The rebrand also includes a newly refreshed website and modernised logo.

“Being a founding member of FTA Europe, the European umbrella association for flexo and following some of the most challenging months in recent history, with Brexit and Covid-19, the Board felt it was the right time to better reflect our support and dedication to the UK flexographic printing industry.”

NEIL JONES

Since its founding in 1972, the Association has proudly supported its members by delivering market leading training and education, alongside establishing new projects, holding annual networking events and the Gala Dinner Awards.



“Our fundamental principles remain unchanged,” continued Neil. “We will continue to lead from the front under the name FIA UK. Our new fully responsive, easy-to-navigate website means we can continue to offer the range of services our members expect, while offering new and dynamic experiences regarding training, education, events and more. With the rebrand, we believe FIA UK is perfectly positioned to meet the needs of the industry, both now and in the future.”

For more information on FIA UK or its activities, please visit the newly launched website at www.fiauk.co.uk.

ATIF's BestInflexo and FlexoDay bring together the Italian flexo-community

On the 17th and 18th of November, ATIF, the Italian Flexo Association held its two main events: the awards ceremony, BestInflexo, and the FlexoDay congress. After the postponement of events in 2020 due to the covid pandemic, the Italian flexo community met again to celebrate excellence in Italian flexography. Since the 2020 awards ceremony had not taken place, ATIF awarded the selection of works entered for both the 2020 and 2021 awards. Over 350 people attended both the ceremony and the flexo congress with great enthusiasm, as they had the chance of meeting again after a long period of time.



document, "Ready for printing" is dealing with the best communication practices between printers and their customers, in order to make production smooth and efficient. The programme also presented the case study of a corrugated board printer that transitioned from offset to flexo printing, and a round table between printers and brand owners discussing about best practices. Other interesting topics concerned the sustainability of packaging, the role of viscosimeters and the latest developments in the production of plates.



Watch the highlights of BestInFlexo [here](#).

Watch the highlights of the Flexo Day 2021 [here](#).

The flexo congress presented all the projects carried out by ATIF's Education Committee and Technical Committee: the latter presented the content of two technical documents that will be published next year. The first document concerns the transition from offset to flexo printing on corrugated board, and the second

The flexo industry enjoys a fantastic evening at the FIA UK Awards 2021



The best and brightest in the flexographic industry have been recognised at the annual Flexographic Industry Association (FIA UK) Print Awards, an event which saw the organisation unveil its new identity as FIA UK.

This year's awards at the iconic National Railway Museum in York proved a runaway success, hosted by renowned impressionist and comedian John Culshaw. The Print Awards bring together the best and most innovative companies from across the flexographic industry to highlight print quality, efficiency, innovation, sustainability and technical development.

This year, companies that picked up gold awards included, Olympus Print Group, East Riding Sacks, Smurfit Kappa, Roberts Mart, Interflex Group, Saica, Coveris, Packaging Technologies, Vista Labels, Cardboard Box, AV Flexologic, DS Smith Packaging, Amberley Labels, Miraclon, Uniflex, International Paper Italia and Emirates. Leading the winners tally was Smurfit Kappa, taking home four gold accolades.

Saica Flex Buxton was the overall winner of the event, winning Best in Show for its Fox's Milk/

White/Triple Chunk Cookies packaging. Olympus Print Group and Interflex Group Sunderland both claimed second place in the category, with Coveris Burnley taking the bronze.

Supplier of the Year, voted for by the printer members of FIA UK, went to pre-press specialist Contact Originators and the company also retained Repro Company of the Year. Special recognition awards were given to Alan Quinn of Reflex Group for his outstanding contribution to the industry, while Phil Arnold of Royston Labels was named Student of the Year.

Neil Jones, Chairman of the Board, added on the night that the rebranding highlighted the Association's commitment to the UK flexographic market, further highlighting to both the industry and association members that meeting their needs will continue to be front and centre of the work carried out by FIA UK.

To view all the winning entries and the photographs from the evening, please visit www.fiauk.co.uk under Winning Entries and Awards Gallery or contact FIA on email: admin@fiauk.co.uk.

EFTA Benelux Flexo Awards 2021

Winners

On Wednesday November the 10th, the winners of the fourth edition of the EFTA Benelux Flexo Awards 2021 were announced at the Hilton Antwerp. In the presence of over 150 printers, suppliers and guests.

A month ago, the jury selected the winners from 140 entries in 16 categories.

Best in show winner was Oerlemans Plastics with the packaging for Ikea Frukstund pineapple and mango 420 gr. In the categories for technical innovation, Windmöller & Hölscher with RUBY Vision Check among suppliers and among printers Orbo NV with Corny Bakers Tortilla Chips Chili walked away with the prizes.

The winners in all categories will compete for the next European FTA Europe Diamond Awards to be announced in Milan on May 5, 2022.

EFTA thanks the sponsors DuPont™ Cyrel® Solutions (main sponsor), Windmöller & Hölscher, Tesa, Sun Chemical, Polymount, Uteco Group, Allstein (all Gold Sponsor), Apex International and AV Flexologic (Bronze).



From left to right: FTA Europe board members; Wim Buyle (EFTA Benelux), Emmanuel Chaud (ATF Flexo), Sante Conselvan (ATIF) and Beatrice Klose (FTA Europe, Secretary General) at the EFTA Benelux awards

Jury report

“The EFTA-Benelux Flexo Awards jury had a difficult, but honorable task to judge more than 140 entries. It seems a cliché, but the quality of the submitted print samples was really of a high level. Flexo is still developing!”



Members News

This was what EFTA-Benelux chairman Roel Seele heard on October 8 during the jury day at the secretariat in The Hague. The members of the jury were shown print samples that were coded, so that they did not know who had made which print sample. If a member of the jury had professional dealings with the print sample, this juror withdrew for that sample. The independence of the jury is of great importance for the value of the EFTA-Benelux Flexo Awards.

The full jury report can be downloaded via the button below.



Jury president Jan Duffhues (ex-Mars), Lotte Krekels (Packaging Manager of Carrefour Belgium), Sandra Schorn (Print Development Specialist of Friesland Campina), Rick Volkers (Director Volkers bv) and Patrick de Grande (Owner design bureau Quatre Mains).



EFTA Flexo Academy 2022 becomes hybrid

On February 3rd the next EFTA Flexo Academy series will start at Oerlemans Plastics. Given the experiences with the Masterclasses this year, the board has decided to have the Flexo Academy next year in hybrid form: 3 meetings on location and 3 short sessions online. Registration is now open. Click [here](#) to download the flyer with the program.



2022

3-6/05/2022 Print4All Exhibition, Milan, IT

05/05/2022 FTA Europe Diamond Awards, Milan, IT

14/06/2022 FIA UK 50th Anniversary Celebrations

02/09/2022 FIA UK Annual Awards Gala Dinner



Current developments on Food Contact Materials legislation

Printed Food Contact Materials (FCMs) are a growing and promising market for printers. The complex and non-harmonised legal framework surrounding it comes with challenges. A non-harmonised legal framework means more burden for companies, especially when it comes to printers, who are usually SMEs, and have limited resources to demonstrate their compliance with the applicable legislation.

Currently, the Framework Regulation (EC/1935/2004) and Good Manufacturing Practices Regulation (EC/2023/2006) are the two main applicable legislations considering FCMs. As the EU was not coming up with a dedicated legislation on food contact printed inks, Germany decided to draft its own legislation in 2016, the German Printing Ink Ordinance. After the reaction of member states, the European Commission announced its intention to adopt new legislation, but changed this approach in 2020, when the decision to review the current regulatory framework was made.

Germany's new draft of the Ink Ordinance was presented in 2020, - the main difference with the 2016 draft is the updated positive list - and was adopted by the German Bundesrat (the Federal Council of Germany) on November 26, 2021. The ordinance has a 4-year transitional period and within this timeframe, there is still an opportunity for the Commission to propose European wide measures. In this case, the transitional period could even be prolonged to 6 years. The Commission is currently reviewing the framework and is expected to provide a conclusion by mid-2023, along with a proposal of a new legislation. The deadline for the Commission to act is 2025, when the German Printing Ink Ordinance will be applicable.

What are the options considered by the European Commission?

a) Shifting the focus onto the final material and refocusing on broader material types:

- ◇ 'organic/synthetic' type materials (plastics, rubbers, coatings, inks, adhesives)
- ◇ inorganic based materials including metals
- ◇ 'natural' or plant-based FCMs (wood, paper and board, other fibres)

b) Prioritisation of all migrating substances, including non-intentionally added substances (NIAS). Priority will be given to certain hazard classes: CMRs, EDs, PBTs, substances in nanoforms and substances that migrate in high amounts.

c) Supporting safer and more sustainable alternatives. A methodology to harmonise assessment of 'natural' materials with unknown composition will be developed. Priority will be given to safe re-use and recycling and to exclude contamination risks. Consistency with the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive and the Single-use plastics Directive needs to be ensured.

d) Improving quality and accessibility of supply chain information by ensuring the consistency of rules on data requirements and information transfer through the supply chain, including a Declaration of Compliance (DoC) for all FCMs.

e) The Commission is looking for a system for verifying compliance.

The entire value chain has its own commitments when it comes to safe food packaging, by ensuring that is using substances which are either included in the positive lists; have authorisation by at least one Member State or the Swiss Ordinance, or are industry assessed.

Industry News

Outlook for 2022: Trends and disruptive innovations

Eight experts on their field (bioplastics, packaging waste, automation, recyclability, paper & board) spoke to PackagingEurope and predicted the trends and innovations that will have a profound impact on the packaging industry. Here are some highlights of what they had to share:

- In flexible packaging, new mono-materials and processes enabling companies to address the sustainability pledges will become reality.
- Digitally printed flexible packaging continues to grow with highest growth rates in stand-up pouches, flow wraps, and single-serve packages.
- Corrugated remains the highest growth engine for packaging, thanks to the increase of e-commerce and retail-ready packaging. Corrugated board companies will boost the sustainable appeal of corrugated packages with new design and inside-outside printing.
- In 2022 there will be a shift on the attitude towards plastic, as it will be more clear that this material can help decrease food waste.
- Inclusivity will play a significant role in packaging design.



Read more [here](#).

Flexible Packaging Market - Growth, Trends, COVID-19 Impact, and Forecasts (2021 - 2026)

The flexible packaging market was valued at \$233.32 billion in 2020 and is expected to grow to \$300.18 billion by 2026 according to a market study by Mordor Intelligence LLP.



Read more [here](#).

Brand Owners Spending More on Packaging

Consumer packaged goods brands have increased their spending on packaging over the past two years - 56% of brand owners reported an increase since 2019 and 65% said they anticipate growing their spending in 2022 and 2023.

Read more [here](#).

World packaging demand to break \$1-trillion-mark in 2021 and reach \$1.22 trillion in 2026, according to latest Smithers analysis

In 2021, the world packaging market has returned to solid growth following a slowdown witnessed in 2020, as multiple end-use industries were disrupted by Covid-19.

Read more [here](#).

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