

Latest News

Nomination

Jacques Vinet new president of the EUF

On the occasion of the European Fliesentage 2010, organized by the EUF, Jacques Vinet, the honorary chairman of the UNECB-FFB, has taken the chair of the European association for the next three years. Let's have a look at the facts and ambitions...

On 10 and 11 June this year, the annual meeting of the EUF (Federation of European Tile Fixer's Association) took place in Woerden (the Netherlands). During this event, which unites all European associations of the tile trade, Jacques Vinet succeeded Georges Pardon, the outgoing president of the EUF. In his speech he reminded of all the actions taken so far but also set out the objectives for his time of office. Read about some of them in excerpts...

Rapid development

"For about ten years the ceramics industry in Europe is undergoing an unparalleled development. But up to now this development has taken place without coordinating it with us, the tile layer businesses, the main group affected, although we alone will always be the ones responsible for the work performed. [...] We don't reject all these progresses in the construction sector. In fact, it's quite the opposite. But they have to be controlled and executed in total compliance with our business and our respective bodies. We want to be recognized as reliable and responsible partners and entrepreneurs and not just simple tile layers as is often the case.



Jacques Vinet (on the right), new president of the EUF, and Georges Pardon, outgoing president.

Due to this fact and to break the silence, the EUF has been reacting and taken the initiative to organize meetings and discussion forums with representatives from the ceramics industry for several years now. [...]

During the last three discussion forums the differences between the industry and the tile layer business were brought to light. They relate mainly to large format tiles, whose current tolerances are not adapted to today's manufacturing techniques. That's why we lay and recommend these kind of products with reservations only. What we would like to see is an obligation for all European manufacturers to reduce these tolerances. [...] Following our meeting in Bologna (editor's note: on the occasion of the Cersaie 2009) our contacts with the CET (association of European tile manufacturers), through Cérame Uni, are on the right track. Everyone defends its position, but the dialogue has been initiated and its an open dialogue. We would also like manufacturers of adhesives to participate in this discussion.

This partnership between the industry and our businesses is absolutely necessary. Jointly, we have to revalue the development of our ceramics, which is the noblest material for floor and wall coverings. [...] We also have to tackle the problem of winning back market shares we lost in favour of other materials such as PVC or parquet. These sectors are better organized and have perfectly elaborated laying instructions available for customer consultants and businesses. In addition to that, we have to be innovative and develop footfall sound insulation that keeps its promises when dealing with architects and principals. This is how we can ensure to win back the market shares we all do need. [...]

Dear representatives of the industry, dear colleagues, these are the progresses we have achieved. Certainly, they are promising, but we have to go much further. We would be very happy to be invited as partners to the meetings of the industry during which you talk about the future of the ceramics industry. The greatest concern of the EUF members is to become real partners of the industry.

Individually we are weak and vulnerable. When we act in concert we will be stronger, more efficient, more innovative and can give back ceramics its excellent repute.”

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