

CONNECT

The European voice of the adhesive and sealant industry



CELEBRATING **50** YEARS OF **FEICA**

The FEICA 2022 European Conference and EXPO celebrated 50 years of FEICA

Following two postponements due to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 700 industry leaders attended this year's event, breaking an all-time record. It took place from 14 to 16 September 2022 in Hamburg, Germany.

Over the course of three days, FEICA 2022 reunited the industry to discuss issues such as sustainable development, food packaging, hotmelts, recycling, and bio-based building blocks for adhesives and sealants. At the EXPO, 50 exhibitors showcased their exciting, latest developments.

This year's Conference Business Forum was titled 'Enabling a sustainable future' and explained how a viable and sustainable future will depend on more efficient and circular use of resources, and how the adhesive and sealant industry is eager to contribute to solutions to meet this challenge. FEICA 2022 was also a celebration of FEICA's 50th anniversary!



IN THIS ISSUE

- FEICA 2022 celebrates 50 years of FEICA 1
- The FEICA Seminar 3
- FEICA launches Adhesion Innovation Award 2023 4
- FEICA webinar on PU training 5
- FEICA/IVK/DBC Members' webinars on EPDs 6
- FEICA turned 50 this month 7
- Member Portrait: AVISA 8
- FEICA interviews FEICA 9
- Embracing diversity & inclusion in the adhesives & sealants industry 14
- CONNECT interviews Christophe Cabary of SpecialChem on sustainability 17
- FEICA publishes view on PPWD 19
- Welcome and Farewell 20





More than a hundred attendees completed the conference survey, often expressing delight at the FEICA conference being back after too long a break. Marko Pavlič, Managing Director of Helios Kemostik d.o.o, is the winner of the FREE registration for the 2023 FEICA Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO in Tarragona, Spain. Congratulations Marko!

'I enjoyed the very professional support by the complete organisation. Congratulations on your inspiring event!'

Geertrui Mieke De Ketelaere, Adj. Professor Vlerick and Runner-up IT Person of the Year 2022

Two books commemorating FEICA's 50th anniversary were distributed at FEICA 2022

The first book, '50 Years FEICA', featured the history of the association and the adhesive and sealant industry with photos and stories from FEICA's archives. For the second publication, FEICA commissioned Prof. Dr Bernd Mayer and Prof. Dr Andreas Gross at the Fraunhofer IFAM to write a study titled 'Adhesive Bonding Technology in the 21st Century - Synergy of Technological and Ecological Potentials'.

At FEICA 2022, Dr Gross presented his publication as well as his vision for the further development of adhesive bonding and sealing technology as the foremost joining technology for the 21st century.

The study can be downloaded via: www.feica.eu/information-center/latest-news/FEICA-Fraunhofer-book



'A sustainable future, the theme of this event, creates many opportunities for our important industry to help achieve a circular economy.'

**Guido Cami (Avisa),
FEICA President**



The FEICA Seminar

The FEICA Seminar 'A Business Perspective on Regulatory Challenges', took place on 14 September 2022.

These were this year's presentations:

- FEICA areas of policy engagement – Influence of the EU Green Deal on the regulatory landscape, by Jana Cohrs-Rahmoun, FEICA Executive Director Regulatory Affairs
- Impact of the REACH revision on the Adhesives and Sealants producers, by Kim Suetens, Chair of the Mixture Assessment TTF, Vice Chair of the Polymers TTF, Soudal

- REACH restriction on diisocyanates – How the mandatory training has been addressed, by Dr Hans-Georg Kinzelmann, Member of the FEICA European Technical Board (ETB), Corporate Director R&D, Henkel
- Political engagement on the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) – EU Green Deal requirements in the construction sector, by Dr Steffen Maier, Chair of the Construction TWG, Member of the FEICA European Technical Board (ETB), Sika

Please Save the Date for the FEICA Seminar 2023, which will take place on 13 September 2023 in Tarragona, Spain.

The 2022 presentations are available on the FEICA Extranet for FEICA member companies, national associations and their member companies only, and are not for distribution.

[#association](#)



ADHESION INNOVATION AWARD 2023

FEICA, the association representing the European adhesive and sealant industry, and EURADH, the biannual European conference on adhesion and related phenomena, are delighted to announce

the **third edition** of their
**joint Award for Innovative
Adhesion Science**

**Applications are invited
from young
researchers working in
adhesion science in Europe.**

This includes masters students,
doctoral students, post-docs,
junior professors and researchers.

The award winner will receive a

€3,000 cash prize,
a certificate, and will be invited to
present their work at **EURADH**
(Garmisch Partenkirchen, Germany,
10 - 13 September 2023), and at the
FEICA Conference and EXPO
(Tarragona, Spain, 13-15 September 2023).



APPLY NOW

www.AdhesionAward.org

FEICA launches Adhesion Innovation Award 2023

FEICA has launched the third Award for Innovative Adhesion Science (AIA 2023). The joint EURADH (European adhesion societies) and FEICA Award for Innovative Adhesion Science is a biannual event created to stimulate the interactions between industrial and scientific activities. It is a great opportunity to raise awareness of the outstanding innovations in our sector, which contribute significantly both towards a circular economy and towards the European economy. This year's focus is on sustainability, durability and industrial applications, among all other aspects of adhesive bonding and adhesion.

Applications are invited from young researchers and scientists working in adhesion science who have published outstanding work.

[More information via adhesionaward.org &](https://adhesionaward.org)

feica.eu/our-priorities/innovation/adhesion-innovation-award



PU training: deadline approaching

The diisocyanates regulation means that from 24th August 2023, any person working within Europe with products containing diisocyanates >0.1%, or their supervisors, require training.

FEICA webinar

FEICA held a webinar on the PU Training platform for the Safe Use of Diisocyanates on 7 October 2022. It was co-organised by FEICA, CEPE and EFCC, and explained the regulation in detail, as well as how training can be accessed. In particular, the webinar delineated the variety of training modules that have been made available online for users of coatings, adhesives and sealants and other construction chemicals.

The webinar attracted almost a thousand attendees.

For more information, please check www.feica.eu/our-projects/safe-use-diisocyanates.

The webinar presentation and recording are available via the [FEICA website information center](https://feica.eu/our-projects/safe-use-diisocyanates).

A live demo of the online training platform is available via [vimeo](https://www.vimeo.com/feica).

Training is available online via www.safeusediisocyanates.eu

FEICA/IVK/DBC webinars for Members - on EPDs

Two webinars, co-organised by FEICA, Industrieverband Klebstoffe e.V. (IVK) and Deutsche Bauchemie e.V. (DBC), explained how to use Model Environmental Product Declarations to address market and regulatory needs for adhesives and sealants in the construction sector

Following the revision of the Model Environmental Product Declarations (Model EPDs), FEICA, IVK and DBC invited their members to discuss the legal framework and upcoming challenges due to legislative initiatives (such as the revision of the Construction Products Regulation) in relation to EPDs in the adhesives and sealants construction sector.

The English version of the webinar took place on 25 October 2022, and the German version on 8 November 2022.

The European Model EPDs are available to FEICA Members via www.feica.eu/our-projects/epds



FEICA® The European voice of the **adhesive and sealant industry**

FEICA-DBC-IVK Webinar
How to use Model Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) to address market and regulatory needs for adhesives and sealants in the construction sector
25 October 2022 - 10:30 to 12:15 (CET Brussels)

co-organised by **FEICA**® **DEUTSCHE BAUCHEMIE** **Industrieverband Klebstoffe e.V.**

MEMBERS ONLY

WHY IS SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IMPORTANT?

CLICK HERE TO READ THE REPORT:

'ADHESIVES AND SEALANTS' KEY SUSTAINABILITY ROLE IN THE TRANSITION PATHWAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION ECOSYSTEM'



FEICA IS 50 THIS MONTH

FEICA turned 50 on 14 November 2022

To commemorate and celebrate our 50th anniversary, we have been sharing stories, photos and anecdotes in all the 2022 issues of CONNECT, starting with Issue 47, Issue 48 and Issue 49.

We also delved into our archives to create a commemorative book for this very special occasion. Simply titled '50 YEARS FEICA - THE ILLUSTRATED BOOK', it was put together by Isabelle Alenus, Senior Communications Manager at FEICA, and gifted to all registrants at FEICA 2022 in Hamburg.



Bottle of wine commemorating 25 years of FEICA, courtesy of industrieverband klebstoffe (IVK)



SAVE THE DATE

FEICA® 2023

Tarragona, Spain

FEICA European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO 2023

13-15 September 2023

PortAventura Convention Centre



MEMBER PORTRAIT

In every issue of CONNECT, we introduce members of FEICA. Here, they share in their own words, interesting insights into their company in 'five fascinating facts'. In this issue, we present AVISA, our Italian National Association Member.

Content by AVISA

AVISA is the Italian sector Association representing manufacturers of adhesives and sealants, printing inks, paints and varnishes at FEDERCHIMICA, the National Chemical Industry Federation which is part of CONFINDUSTRIA and a member of CEFIC. The Association's activity focuses primarily in the following fields: industry legislation, environmental issues and regulations, statistics and economic surveys, research and development, education, communication.

Organised by market sectors, with the support of Technical Committees and Working Groups, AVISA offers member companies privileged information services and opportunities for discussion on issues of common interest.

AVISA represents, and is responsible for, safeguarding the interests of member companies. It is also competent for treating issues of specific interest to the industry, provides technical and economic assistance to member companies and protects the industry image.

More specifically adhesives and sealants group directly provides its members with a wide variety of services. Targeted and tailored information are provided for sectors/areas of specific interest to adhesives & sealants.

Within AVISA there is a Technical Committee whose task is to:

- keep track of and acquire documentation on technical and legal issues affecting member companies (REACH, CLP, CSS, Construction Product Regulation, food contact, environment, etc.)
- follow and analyse developments in EU legislation (and their transposition into national law), Regulations and national legislation affecting the activities of the sectors represented
- activate restricted working groups for in-depth study of critical issues and drafting technical guidelines and monographs.

In order to enlarge upon, consolidate and disseminate knowledge and experience of interest to the industry not only among member companies but also to the stakeholders, customers and through the supply chain, the Association setup some publications.

The most recent publications are the book "Gli adesivi nell'industria del mobile" whose English version has been realized and will be available soon and the handbook "L'incollaggio dei bordi" recently translated into English (Edge Bonding Handbook). The Association is strongly committed to a program of training directed to primary and secondary school, as well as University. All the efforts go into direction to strengthen the public opinion awareness of the contribution our industry gives to the quality of life.

Avisa, as one of the founding members of FEICA is proud to belong to this well-known and recognize European organization. On the occasion of FEICA's 50th anniversary, in view of the important challenges ahead of us, we look forward to continuing the close cooperation with our European Association in the interest of our industry.

CONNECT interviews FEICA President Guido Cami (GC), ETB CHAIR Eva Griessbach (EG), Secretary General Kristel Ons (KO) and Executive Director Regulatory Affairs Jana Cohrs-Rahmoun (JC) on the occasion of our association's milestone anniversary

CONNECT: Guido, as the current President of the association, how would you describe FEICA?

GC: FEICA has been the voice of the European adhesives and sealants manufacturers since 1972. The association is a very important link between European companies and the European Community for the management of issues related to safety, environment, sustainability and all that is necessary for the improvement and respect of the world in which we live.

FEICA's important work has continued uninterrupted for 50 years thanks to the voluntary contribution of professionals working in the federated companies, a Secretariat made up of very experienced and motivated people, and the vigorous contribution of all members.

Now, in an increasingly complex context of technical issues and ever more ambitious goals, FEICA will have to continue to work even harder to support the sector for the next 50 years. I trust that FEICA will meet the task!

CONNECT: Eva, you were the FEICA European Technical Board (ETB) chair for a decade. What stands out most when you look back?

EG: When I took over the ETB chair in 2011, I was a bit worried whether I'd be up to the task. I shouldn't have been worried. From the very first moment, there was tremendous support from the other ETB members, the Executive Board members, the chairs of the Technical Working Groups and, above all, from the FEICA staff! This made this position easy and enjoyable. It is now an important part of my job that I wouldn't want to miss! It is also impressive how we evolved together addressing the everyday challenges. We developed the prioritisation tool that still works and started new working groups or task forces as needed and stopped or merged other working groups. And we were also able to considerably grow the FEICA staff with competent experts – a reflection of the ever-growing workload.

'The association is a very important link between European companies and the European Community'. - Guido Cami, FEICA President



CONNECT: Why should an A&S producer join FEICA today?

GC: Joining an association allows companies to be able to evaluate issues more objectively. Comparison with other market competitors, technicians, specialists, and professionals of all kinds truly enriches a producer's industrial activity and knowledge.

In particular, FEICA, with its very dedicated Secretariat, is a technical association that allows members to always be in line with European regulations. It coordinates the actions of the Executive Board, the Technical Board and all stakeholders interested in the development of projects emerging from time to time. In addition, FEICA interacts with all the National Associations Members to enable them to operate in full agreement and serves as the interlocutor with the European Commission. I believe that now more than ever, it is essential to be part of both the National Association of your country, and of course, of FEICA.

'We must evermore be at the forefront of future regulatory developments and act on time'. - Eva Griessbach, FEICA ETB Chair

CONNECT: How do you view the regulatory landscape in Europe?

EG: I believe that we can anticipate a growing emphasis on sustainability and circularity of products under the EU Green Deal and the Chemical Strategy for Sustainability (CSS).

I'm expecting more legislation aimed at providing more transparency to users and with that, a drastic increase in data requirements like the Carbon Footprint/Environmental Footprint of a product, maybe a Life Cycle Analysis, etc. We will be faced with more questions related to recyclability/reusability of products, waste reduction of products and packaging, and recycling/reusage of packaging. Many regulatory initiatives are already in the pipeline, and I'm somewhat concerned that too much at the same time will result in legislation that's perhaps not well thought through and unmanageable for industry. This means we must evermore be at the forefront of future regulatory developments and act on time.

JC: We see that the output of European policy initiatives has been increasing steadily over the years and especially since the announcement of the Green Deal. However, Europe is composed of member states, each having its own positions. Whilst the European Commission is initiating legislative proposals, it is essential that FEICA and its National Associations work hand in hand towards advocating pragmatic solutions.

KO: FEICA is set to support the EU Green Deal and its aim for the EU to be climate neutral by 2050. Adhesives and sealants will be key to achieving this ambition. However, for an efficient and impactful legislation we need regulatory predictability, coherent policymaking, and technology neutral regulation as sustainability driver. These are crucial factors for investments and innovation to thrive in Europe.

'For Europe to thrive and the EU Green Deal to be a success, FEICA advocates for better regulation' - Kristel Ons, FEICA Secretary General

GC: Regulatory issues are becoming more and more relevant to management in our companies. And all the activities involved serve to protect the environment in which we live, in order to leave our children a better world. We must be pragmatic and do what is really needed to move forward. This creates more and more complexities that SMEs often struggle to manage because of insufficient expertise. This is why it is still useful and necessary to join the National Associations and FEICA, which are able to share experiences with other industry stakeholders, so they can learn and be in line with what the regulations require.

CONNECT: Today, the European adhesives and sealants industry, and FEICA, focus on sustainability, the circular economy, digitalisation, and innovation. What's your view on the critical success factors in these areas?

KO: For Europe to thrive and the EU Green Deal to be a success, FEICA advocates for better regulation, and questions whether the EU policy-making is forward looking and future-proof: regarding the survival of SMEs, impact on the entire value chain, impact on employment, and furtherance of true innovation, etc.

EG: Indeed, I believe it is important to educate the decision makers on our products, their applications and their benefits. Above all, although often 'invisible', adhesives and sealants play a crucial role in today's society.

We must, of course, always listen to criticism and respond with facts and science. We cannot stop 'evolution'!

'We need to be united and strongly represented in Europe as a stakeholder that is actively contributing to the success of a circular economy' - Jana Cohrs, FEICA Executive Director Regulatory Affairs

JC: It is important to focus on cooperation: cooperation in the supply chain to better understand the life cycle of our products, including use and end-of-life options, and cooperation within our industry, to ensure that we are united and strongly represented in Europe as a stakeholder that is actively contributing to the success of a circular economy.



GUIDO CAMI: Manufacturers of adhesives and sealants have been working to improve the living conditions in all commodity sectors: construction, transportation, packaging, the wood sector, manufacturing, paper, large-scale distribution and so on. Our focus is to continue to do so.

CONNECT: What have been, in your opinion, some of the industry's, and FEICA's, biggest achievements in the past 50 years?

JC: The multiplication of both FEICA members and of working groups shows the trust that the industry has in us and as well as the importance of our work.

KO: FEICA, recognised as the voice of adhesives and sealants by EU legislators, raises awareness of what adhesives and sealants can do and how they can contribute to a sustainable future and the circular economy. FEICA helped achieve all of the following: REACH Use Map Packages, OCF Test Methods, Model EPDs, the PU training platform, and guidance for industry on many topics and markets.

GC: Chemical companies, and in particular manufacturers of adhesives and sealants, over the past decades have continued to invest and innovate to make better-performing products by using increasingly efficient and effective equipment. All the while, these companies have been devoting more and more attention to the surrounding environment and human health.



Kristel Ons and Guido Cami

They have, as well, been developing quality certification systems promoting health, safety, and the protection of the environment.

In an environment that has become increasingly complex in terms of regulations and legislation, FEICA is to be considered a reference for adhesives and sealants manufacturers because it has always, over the course of 50 years, played a technical role of assistance and support for the definition and resolution of all evolving issues through a professional and expert organisation consisting of dedicated people, contributing experts, and National Association Members.

EG: With regard to the industry, I believe it was an important step to realise that some issues are best addressed in terms of a bigger group, in particular the EHS and Regulatory issues.

I can imagine that 50 years ago, it wasn't obvious to reach out to competitors, but now we have found a way to work together beyond commercial issues for the benefit of all.

Regarding FEICA, I can only be impressed by how this organisation was developed by some visionary ex-and current FEICA members to become recognised as the European voice of the adhesives and sealants industry.

FEICA is an official stakeholder at the EU institutions giving us the unique opportunity to speak as one voice. This is crucial to inform ECHA and the European Commission about our industry.

CONNECT: At 50, what do you think are FEICA's greatest challenges for the future, both in the short term and in the long term?

JC: To be able to cover the multitude of topics, we need industry experts with a mandate to spend time on FEICA issues and to cooperate with other industry members and share pertinent information.

KO: Industry and associations face a similar challenge: experts with many years experience are retiring. As a consequence, there are a multitude of topics to be covered with fewer people. It is important that industry taps into talents under the radar, especially in terms of diversity and inclusion. A new generation of experts needs to urgently emerge. Of course, associations are needed more than ever to defend our interests. Together with our Members and National Associations Members, we have been able to defend our industry for five decades, and will do so for the next fifty years!

EG: Regulators in the European Union are often driven by NGOs to identify and restrict the most hazardous chemicals, notably the ones with irreversible health and environmental effects such as, for example, carcinogens and PBTs, and this is legitimate. Unfortunately, it seems that not every proposal to restrict substances is based on robust study data and science. On the one hand, the chemical industry needs to be more convincing in that aspect if we want to ensure the long-term availability of the chemicals that a modern society really needs. On the other hand, we need to accept the fact that some substances that we have come to appreciate cannot be saved!

We, as the chemical industry, should take a leading role in sustainability, circular economy, and better health and environment regulations, rather than be driven by groups that may not be as knowledgeable as reputable scientists or, even worse, that may have a hidden agenda to phase out certain chemicals. These are tough challenges, but overcoming them will be very rewarding as it means we are contributing to a better society.

GC: For the next 50 years, FEICA should continue to support adhesives and sealants manufacturers, as it has always done. As a result, it will always be considered the voice of adhesives and sealants manufacturers in Europe.



Dr Eva Griessbach



Jana Cohrs-Rahmoun

Embracing diversity and inclusion in the adhesives and sealants industry

by Paula Diaz, FEICA Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager

At FEICA 2022, one of the Master Classes was titled 'Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) in the Adhesive and Sealants industry'. We explored the reasons inclusion matters and the pitfalls of not having an inclusive culture. Dr Ritu Paul (H.B. Fuller) and Katherine Glasser (Henkel) shared their personal stories and the actions their companies have taken and plans going forward. During the panel discussion and Q&A, moderated by Dr Vera Haye (IVK), Ritu and Kate were joined by Prof. Geertrui Mieke De Ketelaere (imec/IDLab, Vlerick) and Sofia Koehler (Colquimica Group) to discuss how diversity can be taken more into account.

The adhesives and sealants industry is already leading the path towards a more diverse and inclusive society. Each year, 20 % of attendees at the FEICA Conference and EXPO are women, with numbers growing every year. However, some aspects of the practical implementation of D&I still remain a challenge. This was brought into focus during the Master Class.

'Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance' - Verna Myers (Vice President of Inclusion Strategy at Netflix)

Diversity is about personal characteristics, about the condition of being different or having differences. Working to achieve a diverse workplace means working to ensure the presence of differences in the workplace. Many reports highlight the importance of promoting diversity and inclusion.

A 2018 study from McKinsey & Company of more than 1,000 companies across 12 countries found that companies whose executive teams were in the top quartile for gender diversity were 21% more likely to surpass other companies in profitability and 27% more likely to create more value. In addition, the researchers found that companies whose executive teams were in the top quartile for ethnic and cultural diversity were 33% more likely to reach top profitability in their industry (Vivian Hunt, Sara Prince, Sundiatu Dixon-Fyle, and Lareina Yee, *Delivering through Diversity*, McKinsey & Company, January 2018).

What these findings suggest is 'that inclusion of highly diverse individuals—and the myriad ways in which diversity exists beyond gender (e.g., LGBTQ+, age/generation, international experience)—can be a key differentiator among companies'.

Academic research has shown that inclusive groups perform better than homogenous ones. The authors of 'Why diverse teams are smarter' (David Rock and Heidi Grant, *Harvard Business Review*, November 4, 2016) cite numerous studies that demonstrate the superiority of diverse teams in such tasks as sifting through evidence, solving problems, correctly pricing stocks, making decisions, and innovating. In the light of such concrete evidence, companies probably understand how important it is to achieve the best possible degrees of diversity and inclusion soon.

How can companies make it happen?

During the Master Class, Kate Glasser and Ritu Paul shared some insights on what Henkel and HB Fuller are doing to improve D&I performance.

Ms. Glasser explained that Henkel is striving for gender parity by 2025. The company would like to establish gender balance across all management positions by 2025. The proportion of women in management is currently 38 percent. To achieve its goals, Henkel put in place a comprehensive action plan and measures to foster diversity, equity and inclusion. Some of the measures Henkel has implemented are:

- Creation of five circles as complementation of their gender diversity, equity, inclusion agenda (family, LGBTQ+, thinking styles, culture and recruitment, and persons with disabilities)
- Setting up of recurrent coffee sessions to allow the space for employees to freely share their thoughts
- Release of podcast series

Dr. Paul talked about the H.B. Fuller Employee Networking Groups (ENGs) — employee-led, voluntary groups that help build community, support skill development, and provide members with exposure to senior leadership:

- Next Generation Professionals (NGP)
- Black Employee Network (B.E.N.)
- Women at Fuller (W@F)

The adhesives and sealants industry is already acknowledging the incredible benefits from adopting diverse and inclusive strategies.

The fact that these strategies result in more successful business and happier employees is a win-win situation.



The Master Class brought light to what strategies a company can adopt in order to be successful when trying to implement diversity and inclusion strategies:

1. Everything should start with the commitment of the executive management. Diversity and inclusion should be set as a business priority and all levels of management should lead by example.
2. Diversity and inclusion should be a business priority and annual goals should therefore be set. Diversity and inclusion efforts need to be assessed against key performance indicators (KPIs).
3. Diversity should be considered in recruitment, remuneration, position changes and career management (mobility, promotions, etc.).

4. Leaders and employees should get support on identifying and breaking from unconscious bias . Regular training on diversity and inclusion with a focus on unconscious bias can help in this regard.

5. The workplace must be made accessible and adapted to disabled employees. The focus should not be restricted to visible disabilities. For example, autistic employees might also require some accommodations such as noise cancelling headphones, small breaks during the day or extra time during meetings to process information.

6. Employees should be allowed to have resources groups (like Henkel's circles and HB Fuller's voluntary groups) to help construct workplace diversity and inclusion culture.



Left to right: Katherine Glasser (Henkel), Dr Ritu Paul (H.B. Fuller), Prof. Geertrui Mieke De Ketelaere (imec/IDLab, Vlerick), Sofia Koehler (Colquimica Group) and Dr Vera Haye (IVK)

LEPILA & TESNILNE MASE
Proizvodnja v Sloveniji

ADHESIVES & SEALANTS
Production in Slovenia

**'ADHESIVES & SEALANTS
Production in Slovenia'**

The report, published by FEICA National Association Member GZS can be downloaded via:

<https://cutt.ly/Slovenianreport>

CONNECT talks to Christophe Cabarry of SpecialChem about the adhesives and sealants' industry rapid shift to sustainability

Christophe Cabarry (CC), Founder and CEO of SpecialChem, talks to FEICA about sustainability and diversity in the Adhesive and Sealants industry. The FEICA 2022 conference Business Forum was titled 'Enabling a sustainable future', and one of our Master Classes was titled 'Diversity and Inclusion in the Adhesive and Sealants industry'. The necessity for sustainability, diversity and inclusion were highlighted. CONNECT interviewed SpecialChem to get their take on these increasingly relevant topics.

CONNECT: What are SpecialChem's thoughts on the A&S industry's increasingly rapid shift to sustainability?

CC: As the Material Selection Platform, SpecialChem helps formulators to find the materials they need for their new products. Among the 700 000 visits they made in the last 12 months on our Adhesives & Sealants ingredient selection platform, we could clearly see the sustainability topic gaining traction. And, when we survey A&S formulators, 94% of them tell us that sustainability is a systematic goal of their company's development strategy.

Regarding A&S ingredients, we recently analyzed the new product launches that are specifically marketed to the adhesives industry, over the last 18 months. 50% of them had claims related to sustainability. 22% had VOC-free related claims, then 17% were linked to biobased origins and 11% to carbon footprint reduction. It is worth noting that this number is lower than in the coatings industry (62%) and well below the ones of another formulation industry, cosmetics and personal care in which this rate reaches 74%.

CONNECT: The EU Green Deal sets very clear targets for sustainable development. How can our industry help to deliver on these targets?

CC: Given the ambition of carbon neutrality of the European Economy in 2050, every industry will have to rethink its impact on the environment and on its value chain. Adhesives are truly at the core of many sustainability-creation mechanisms. A few examples:

- Making existing products last longer thanks to superior bonding solutions
- Debonding on demand to be able to effectively recycle complex objects
- Enhancing reparability of goods thanks to adequate adhesives. Promoting better insulation of buildings thanks to new families of sealants.

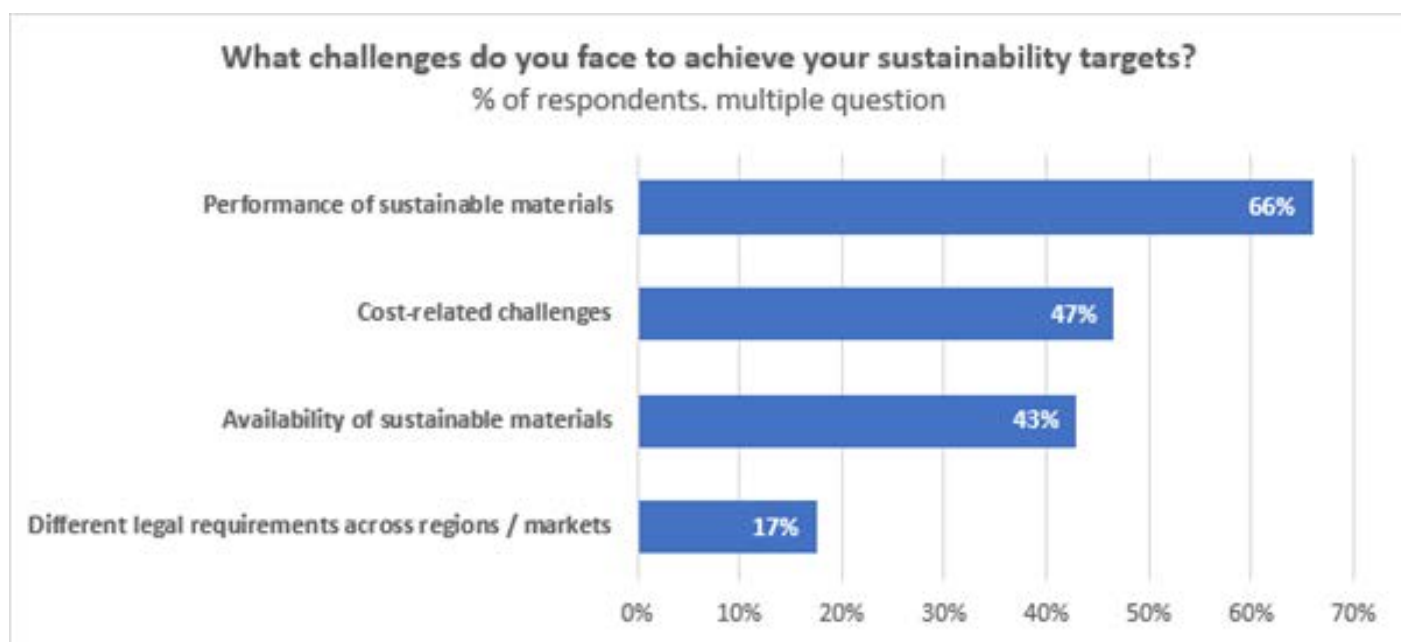
At the formulators level, VOC reduction, enhancing recycling and waste reduction were their top 3 sustainability objectives.



SpecialChem survey, Q2 2021, 326 respondents

CONNECT: Is sustainable growth seen by the industry as an opportunity or a challenge?

CC: As always, every new trend on a market is both a challenge and an opportunity. Being prepared for it will determine if it has a positive or a negative outcome for a given company. Now at the industry level, I see sustainability as a great opportunity for innovations that would have had more difficulties making it to the market without it. I am thinking about materials like succinic-acid; bio-based and CO₂-derived polyols; 1,4-butanediol and bio-based-isobutanol; bio-based alternatives to isocyanates or even bio-based epichlorohydrin. When surveyed, the A&S formulators on SpecialChem make the following ranking of their challenges.



SpecialChem survey, Q2 2021, 326 respondents

CONNECT: Diversity is increasingly important to companies. Will it be good for business?

CC: Our European modern societies are characterized by greater inclusion, more multiculturalism and more diversity in all its senses. How could a company ignore this trend, both regarding its workforce and its customers? Like sustainability, we must embrace it.



Christophe Cabary speaking speaking at the 2018 FEICA Conference & EXPO in Riga.

FEICA position on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation

FEICA welcomes the opportunity of a potential recasting of the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive (PPWD) into an EU regulation, which would bring about more harmonised requirements on packaging across EU member states, reduce internal market barriers and simplify compliance work for economic operators.

A FEICA position paper is available on the [FEICA website](#). It lists the key aspects that FEICA believes need to be considered when future packaging and packaging waste legislation is defined.



FEICA participates in online workshop organised by ASEFCA

Online workshop: 'The impact of EU regulations on sustainable buildings'

Paula Diaz, Senior Regulatory Affairs Manager at FEICA, will be presenting 'The impact of EU regulations on sustainable buildings' at the online workshop organised by FEICA National Association Member ASEFCA, on 15 December 2022.

More information is available via <https://congresoadhesivos.com/es/work>



FEICA welcomes new staff member

FEICA welcomes Mr Algreit Dume who took on the position of Regulatory Affairs Manager at FEICA on 8 September 2022. Algreit has an MSc in Economics and Business Administration from Copenhagen Business School. He has recently worked at the EU Commission, where he focused on chemical policy and legislation, as well as the Impact Assessment of the REACH and CLP revision. He also has experience in the private sector, where he worked across global companies and start-ups in the Energy, Financial and Pharmaceutical industries. Algreit is passionate about industrial transformation, particularly on how public policies can foster the green and digital transition in the EU economy.

At FEICA, Algreit will initially focus on REACH-related topics, such as the registration of polymers, the Mixture Assessment Factor and use maps.

Many of you had the chance to meet Algreit at the 2022 FEICA Conference and EXPO in Hamburg. We are very happy to welcome Algreit to the FEICA team.



JIM OWENS, CEO and President of H.B. Fuller retires

H.B. Fuller announces that JIM OWENS, their CEO and President will retire in December 2022. FEICA welcomed Jim at many of its events, going back more than a decade. We congratulate him on an outstanding career in A&S and congratulate his successor, Celeste Mastin, on her new role!

FEICA 2022 on Social Media



Stuart Jenkinson (H.B. Fuller, FEICA European Executive Board (EEB) Member), Jim Owens, and Thomas Kauffman (H.B. Fuller) at FEICA 2022 in Hamburg



Jim Owens with Boris Tasche (Henkel, FEICA EEB Member) and FEICA President Guido Cami (Industrie Chimiche Forestali) at the 2018 FEICA Conference & EXPO in Berlin



Simone Ottani • 1st

Regional Manager IMCD Group - Market Manager IMCD Itali...

1mo •

#FEICA congress is always a great experience! Top event for the european adhesives market and the #IMCD 'sticky guys' were in the right place!!



H.B. Fuller

109,553 followers

1mo •

3, 2, 1! The countdown is over and the **FEICA 2022** European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO has begun in the beautiful Hamburg, Germany, and we are so

... tured **H.B. Fuller** adhesive experts ...see more



Dow Packaging • @DowPackaging · Sep 14.

If you're attending the **#FEICA 2022** European Adhesive and Sealant Conference & EXPO on 14-16 September, then come and find the Dow team to chat with our industry experts about how we can help you with your next project.



WAC2026

WORLD ADHESIVE & SEALANT CONFERENCE



16-18 September 2026

The QEII Centre
London, UK



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**ADHESION
INNOVATION
AWARD 2023**

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