

UFI 2009 General Assembly Welcomed New Members, next Presidential “Trio” and UFI Approved Events

Paris/Zagreb, October 29, 2009: Meeting in Zagreb for the 76th UFI Congress from October 28 -31, UFI - The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, welcomed 19 new members into its international community of leading fair organizers, venue managers, partners of the industry and national and international associations. UFI's membership spans the globe with a total of 535 member organisations representing over 4500 exhibitions. A unique forum, UFI also brings together 47 national and international industry associations on a regular basis to examine issues and topics of relevance to all concerned. The gathering in Zagreb was also the occasion for UFI to hold a number of association meetings ranging from Regional Chapter meetings to Committee meetings on subjects as varied as sustainable development and education.

The General Assembly welcomed its new UFI Presidential trio. The UFI Presidential term of one year builds on a three year UFI Presidential cycle: one year as Incoming-President, one year as incumbent President, and one year as Immediate Past-President. For the 2009/2010 session, Manfred Wutzlhofer (Messe München, Germany), succeeds John Shaw as UFI President. John Shaw (Comexposium, France) will continue to provide support as UFI's Immediate Past President. The newcomer to the UFI “trio” is Eric Everard, (easyFairs Group and Artexis, Belgium) who joins it this year as UFI Incoming President. His position will automatically evolve at the 77th UFI Congress in Singapore when he will assume his mandate as UFI President.

Since the last UFI Congress in Istanbul, UFI granted the “UFI Approved” quality label to 44 international exhibitions organized and managed by UFI members, bringing the total number of UFI Approved exhibitions to 844. John Shaw stated that, “UFI approved events are audited events. This is a guarantee to exhibitors and visitors alike of the quality of the event, and an aide in the selection of events to attend in today's highly competitive exhibition market.”

Manfred Wutzlhofer, UFI's new President, looks forward to leading the association, saying, “even in difficult times, exhibitions remain unique in their ability to bring buyers and sellers together in a face-to-face environment. UFI provides the forum required for the exchange of knowledge and ideas that will drive the exhibition industry ahead as we continue to meet the needs of our exhibitors and visitors.”

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UFI 2009 General Assembly Welcomes New Members, New UFI Approved Events and Presidential Trio (continued)

Attached: List of UFI Members approved since the last UFI Congress
List of exhibitions accepted as UFI Approved events since the last UFI Congress
CV and photo of Manfred Wutzlhofer, UFI President 2009/2010
CV and photo of John Shaw, UFI Executive Immediate Past President (UFI President 2008/2009)
CV and photo of Eric Everard, UFI Incoming President (UFI President 2010/2011)

UFI is the association of the world's leading tradeshow organisers and exhibition centre operators, as well as the major national and international exhibition associations, and selected partners of the exhibition industry. UFI's main goal is to represent, promote and support its members and the exhibition industry worldwide.

By promoting the unique characteristics of trade fairs, UFI:

- Provides an efficient networking platform where professionals of the exhibition industry can exchange ideas and experiences;
- Promotes trade fairs and exhibitions globally as a unique marketing and communications tool;
- Provides its members with valuable studies and research regarding all aspects of the exhibition industry;
- Offers educational opportunities and a variety of professional seminars; and
- Deals with issues of common interest to its members through regular meetings of its regional chapters and thematic working groups.

UFI represents 535 member organisations in 83 countries around the world. 844 of its members' exhibitions have earned the UFI Approved Event quality label.

UFI members are currently responsible for more than:

- 4,500 exhibitions, most of them being international;
- 50 million square metres of space rented annually;
- 1 million exhibitors each year;
- 150 million visitors annually.
- 12 million square metres gross rentable exhibition space.

For further information please go to UFI's website at www.ufi.org or contact:

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