

# CONNECT

FEICA NEWS & VIEWS

The European voice of the adhesive and sealant industry



## FEICA LAUNCHES OVERVIEW OF ADHESION AND BONDING COURSES IN EUROPE

WE AIM TO ATTRACT TOP TALENT TO THE  
INDUSTRY AND ENCOURAGE LEARNING

The adhesive and sealant industry is eager to increase its visibility and attract more experts and graduates to specialise in adhesion and bonding.

FEICA can help its company members in the 'war for talent' by promoting chemical studies, in particular adhesion science. One action FEICA is taking to support this objective is to provide an overview of the available adhesion-related courses and studies in Europe. We are therefore delighted to announce the launch of an education page on the FEICA website.

The aim is to encourage young graduates to specialise in adhesion and bonding, scientists to explore the whole spectrum of our sector and existing professionals to refresh their knowledge.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Overview of courses in adhesion & bonding now available on the FEICA website 1
- FEICA appoints new Secretary General 2
- European Green Deal: How adhesives & sealants help make it happen 3
- Join our webinar on a FEICA risk assessment for cyclic esters 6
- Ten outstanding entries submitted for the 2020 Adhesion Innovation Award 7
- FEICA one-component foam (OCF) Test Methods approved as CEN standards 10
- Challenges and expectations for downstream users of chemicals 11
- Reaction to the EU's 'New Industrial Strategy for Europe' 12
- ECHA's response to COVID-19 13
- A farewell at FEICA 14

We have included adhesion and bonding courses in various European languages, given by institutions, universities and official research centres in countries across the EU. Specific features for each course, such as format, duration and description, are available in the overview. Consultants or courses from a wider business or general perspective are not taken into consideration.

- The courses are listed under the Information centre/[Courses](#) of the FEICA website.
- Background information is provided under Our priorities/[Education](#).

## OUR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS (NAMS) HELP US TO ENCOMPASS ALL OF EUROPE

Many of our NAMs cooperate closely with institutes or universities in their respective countries, or even offer adhesion technology training of their own to their members. These have been listed too and we thank our NAMs for their invaluable help whilst we were composing our course selector. Our dedicated web page also invites any institutions undertaking adhesion bonding courses not yet listed to let us know so that we can add them. If information is outdated, we would of course also like to be notified.

Although we are almost at the end of the academic year, we would like to take the opportunity to further build the information over the summer and have a communication campaign ready before the new year starts. This is an ongoing project and the courses will be updated and renewed on a regular basis to ensure the information remains current and up-to-date.

FEICA Secretary General Philip Bruce said, "This new resource, along with activities such as the Adhesion Innovation Award, support the strategy approved by the FEICA Board to educate all stakeholders about the relevance and benefits of our industry and its products."

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## FEICA APPOINTS NEW SECRETARY GENERAL KRISTEL ONS SUCCEEDS PHILIP BRUCE AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF FEICA, THE ASSOCIATION OF THE EUROPEAN ADHESIVE & SEALANT INDUSTRY

On 6 May 2020, FEICA's President, Roland Albers, announced that the FEICA Executive Board unanimously appointed Kristel Ons as the incoming Secretary General of the Association with effect from 15 June 2020.

Kristel has been with FEICA for over ten years, previously as its Communications and Events Director, responsible for the organisation of the annual FEICA Conference & EXPO, internal and external communication, and was instrumental in the roll-out of FEICA's strategy. She served as Deputy to Philip Bruce for the last four years and has been very involved in all Secretary General duties since the beginning of 2020 to ensure a smooth transition to the new role.



Prior to joining FEICA, Kristel had a successful career in global business development across a range of industries. Kristel holds a Bachelor's in Marketing & Communications, a Postgraduate Diploma in Corporate Finance from K.U. Leuven, and an Executive Master's in International Association Management from the Solvay Business School.

'I am excited to be appointed as the next Secretary General of FEICA', Kristel said. 'I very much look forward to continue working with the staff, members and external stakeholders to promote and strengthen our industry.'

Philip, Director of PJB Chemical Consulting Ltd, took charge of FEICA four and a half years ago, after which the Association went from strength to strength, with a healthy strategy and increased membership.

Philip said 'Kristel knows FEICA through and through and I wish her all the very best. The Association will have a bright future in her capable hands'. He added 'I want to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to work with so many talented members, colleagues and external stakeholders, all very dedicated to our industry.'

FEICA President Roland Albers commented, 'we are delighted that Kristel is assuming the position of Secretary General at FEICA and wish Philip a very happy retirement after very productive years of leading the Association. He added 'building on FEICA's excellent reputation in the public domain as well as with the European bodies, the board and I are confident that Kristel will take the Association to new heights.'

Please join us in wishing a fond farewell to Philip and welcoming Kristel in her new and exciting position!



Kristel Ons with NAM competition winner Jana Kohn at FEICA 2019



Philip Bruce hands out first Adhesion Innovation Award to Dr Hensel at FEICA 2018

## THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL HOW ADHESIVES & SEALANTS ARE HELPING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

The European Union has taken global leadership in tackling climate change and actively pursues policies to cut its greenhouse gas emissions and to decouple these from economic growth. This allows the EU to modernise its economy and energy system, making them sustainable in the long term and to improve energy security and the health of its citizens by reduced air pollution.

In this context, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen presented the European Green Deal on 11 December 2019, stating "We can all be involved in the transition and we can all benefit from the opportunities." See European Commission [Press Room](#) for full speech.



## The adhesive and sealant industry in Europe

FEICA and its members support the objectives of the European Green Deal. FEICA's sustainability mission states, 'Day by day, the adhesive and sealant industry is developing technologies to support a growing world population to live a better life and to use the planet's resources responsibly and efficiently.'

**Some of the ways in which the adhesive and sealant industry in Europe helps facilitate the Green Deal include:**

### Collaboration and knowledge sharing

The adhesive and sealant industry can provide recognised expertise, technological know-how, regulatory insights and concrete manufacturing innovations, solutions and services to support the EU's sustainability ambition. To maximise the benefit of this knowledge, we collaborate with diverse industry players across various business sectors. In this way, we play a role in shifting whole value chains towards a more sustainable future.

### Enabling

The adhesives and sealant industry invests heavily in science, research and innovation to advance solutions that tangibly reduce environmental impact and empower manufacturers to produce in a more cost-effective and responsible way. In this way we help enable the Circular Economy Action Plan and lay the practical foundations of a new era of industrial design and manufacturing under resource constraints. The need to responsibly leverage chemicals, as research evolves and markets grow, and use them safely are strong prerequisites for sustainable innovation, eco-design and ultimately, the EU Green Deal agenda.

To help stimulate innovation and interactions between industrial and scientific activities in adhesion science, FEICA, together with EURADH (the biannual European conference on adhesion and related phenomena), organises and sponsors the Adhesive Innovation Award, which has as one of its three criteria for judging the projects submitted the "Relevance of the work, highlighting benefits to the circular economy, society, economy, sustainability, environment and/or industry".

### CO2 emissions reduction

Adhesives and sealants can help achieve efficiencies, materials savings and CO2 emission reductions in a broad range of applications along different value chains. These examples from our daily lives represent just a fraction of those surrounding each and every one of us:

### Durability

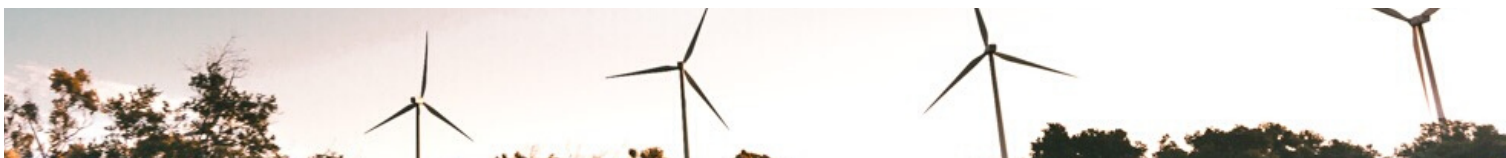
- Impregnated sealant tape for joints fulfils the aesthetic and qualitative requirements to protect sensitive materials such as sandstone in historical buildings.
- Special adhesive solutions enable the production of lightweight panels, contributing to the increased stability and durability of lightweight furniture.
- Heat seals and re-closable packaging improve the conservation of food, reducing food waste and packaging waste.

### Recycling

- Labelling adhesives that can be easily washed off support multiple use and recycling of returnable glass bottles.
- An adhesive with barrier properties enables flexible food and consumer packaging to be recycled thanks to the use of mono-material films.
- Special adhesives are also used in the electronics industry that enable de-bonding of components in electronic devices to allow their reuse and recycling.

### Energy savings

- The performance of the window systems can be dramatically improved through the use of the appropriate sealants and adhesives to seal and bond the glass in the window frame, seal the window in the building, and seal and bond the glass panes in the insulating windows.
- Adhesives enable wooden structural elements for innovative construction technologies, thus saving energy and reducing CO2 emissions by the use of renewable and recyclable materials.
- Adhesives securely bond insulation panels as part of External Thermal Insulation Composite Systems (ETICS), helping save energy and reduce the need for maintenance in buildings.



## Material efficiency

- New adhesive systems for high performance structural glazing for building facades can save material during production and energy in the use phase. At the same, they allow more innovative facade designs.
- Adhesives used in the manufacture of composites for lightweight automotive materials and aeroplane components enable the production of lighter vehicles and aeroplanes, reducing CO2 emissions and improving their fuel economy.
- Paper glues based on natural ingredients and packed in mainly plant-based packaging help to reduce CO2 emissions and save fossil resources.

## Repairability

- Adhesives are used for the repair of shoes, furniture, toys, crockery, clothing, etc., extending their use phase.
- The longevity of conveyor belts can be extended by repairing on-site with a special adhesive system, thereby saving resources and reducing downtime.
- Sealants are used to repair buildings, hermetically protecting facades against the penetration of water.

More can be found in the [good practices](#) section of the FEICA website.

The EU will continue to lead international efforts and use its influence, expertise and financial resources to mobilise its neighbours and partners to join it on a sustainable path.

The adhesive and sealant industry is committed to being a trusted partner in this journey.

Please also see the related FEICA article on [www.adhesivesmag.com](http://www.adhesivesmag.com).

With a strong commitment to its sustainability vision, the adhesive and sealant industry is a key enabler of the European Green Deal and the circular economy.

We are an integral component of the solution in Europe and are determined to live up to the ambition, continue the dialogue and make it happen for the people, the planet and the industry.

## FEICA PUBLISHES MORE GOOD PRACTICE STORIES ADHESIVES AND SEALANTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: RECYCLING

Twenty one FEICA Good Practice stories are now available on the FEICA website.

Good Practice stories help to share knowledge across the industry and enable the downstream users of adhesives and sealants to pursue more sustainable production practices in line with the European Commission's circular economy goals.

More Good Practice stories are consistently being published by FEICA and we encourage all our members to keep sending them in! The latest stories are titled 'Recycling of flexible packaging laminates' and 'Adhesives for improved recycling of packaging'. You can read all FEICA Good Practice stories on the [FEICA website](#).

## FEICA updates its CE brochure

Originally published in 2018, FEICA updated its [brochure](#) on adhesives in the Circular Economy (CE) following the launch of the European Green Deal in December 2019.

The adhesive and sealant industry supports the European Commission's objectives within the European Green Deal for a comprehensive approach to "closing the loop" of product lifecycles, bringing benefits for the environment, the economy and society and helping to achieve a more sustainable future.



# WEBINAR ON A FEICA RISK ASSESSMENT FOR CYCLIC ESTERS

## REGISTER YOUR INTEREST!

Cyclic esters are an unavoidable by-product in polyester production. Polyesters are used in films, coatings and adhesives (PU and heat seals). FEICA members have pooled their knowledge to ensure their risk assessments are complete and transparent throughout the industry. The resulting FEICA risk assessment of cyclic esters will be available to FEICA members.

Matthias Frischmann, food chemist and Head of Corporate Analytics at Henkel in Düsseldorf will introduce the topic of cyclic esters, explain the risk assessment that was carried out and what the responsibilities are of each actor in the supply chain of PU and heat seal adhesives.

You can register your interest in this free online webinar, which will take place on Thursday 4 June 2020 from 10:00 to 10:45 Brussels time (GMT+1). We will then send you further details of how to participate.

**Registration closes on Monday 1 June at 17:00 GMT+1. However, please note that the number of registrations is limited and that we are almost at full capacity.**



## FEICA CONFERENCE AND EXPO POSTPONED

### WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN WARSAW AT FEICA 2021

#### **FEICA will still hold its European Adhesive & Sealant Conference and EXPO in Poland in 2021**

Maintaining the health and safety of our attendees, exhibitors, speakers and staff is of paramount importance amidst the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. We investigated alternatives, but due to logistical issues, as well as feedback from our members, we decided to postpone our conference in Warsaw and hold it in 2021 instead.

The way we live, interact and do business have all been radically disrupted and we will come out of this eager to connect on a human level, keen to celebrate everything we value as a community. In this context, FEICA is looking forward to bringing everyone together and seeing you all again at FEICA 2021.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. More information about FEICA 2021 will be made available on our [conference website](#).

# TEN OUTSTANDING ENTRIES HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED FOR THE FEICA/EURADH ADHESION INNOVATION AWARD 2020

**The second Adhesion Innovation Award (AIA 2020) was launched in November 2019 and attracted even more young scientists from across Europe.**

Every two years, applications are invited from young researchers working in adhesion science who have published outstanding work.

For the 2020 edition of the Award, ten candidates submitted inspirational papers in innovative adhesion science, and the EURADH jury is reviewing each one methodically for scientific impact, relevance, structure, preparation technology, theoretical description and practical application. They now have the tough challenge of picking a winner from a diverse range of innovative submissions.

**Here is a short summary of each of the submissions.**

## **Dipl.-Ing. Elisa Arikan**

'Structural adhesive bonding of polymers - Surface characteristics and adhesion mechanism'

Elisa Arikan's work examines the surface characteristics of polymer surfaces which exhibit good adhesive properties in terms of high strength and ageing stability in structural bonds. In particular, the importance of chemical surface functionalisation was examined. Investigations demonstrated that the bond strength is not determined by specific surface chemistry in the form of functional groups or the wetting behaviour, but rather the surface roughness. This implies that adhesion primarily takes place through Van der Waals (VdW) interactions. The use of structural adhesive bonding offers a large weight saving potential compared to conventional joining methods, especially within the aerospace industry. Through this work, a fundamental understanding of the mechanism for good adhesion on a polymer surface was found. Therefore, we regard these results as highly relevant for many applications and industries. Elisa is a Research Associate and PhD student at the Universität der Bundeswehr München in cooperation with the Bundeswehr Research Institute for Materials, Fuels & Lubricants (WIWeB) in Germany.

## **Serkan Çavdar MSc**

'Stress-based fatigue life prediction of adhesively bonded hybrid hyperelastic joints under multiaxial stress conditions'

The use of hyperelastic adhesives for structural applications in for example transportation applications requires robust and reliable design methods. Serkan Çavdar's work presents a concept for stress-based fatigue life prediction with associated experimental parameter identification of joints bonded using hyperplastic adhesives. The influence of stress multiaxiality on fatigue strength is described with an isotropic pressure dependent equivalent stress hypothesis. Lightweight construction can make a significant contribution to a successful, sustainable economy through semi-structural bonding. The computation concept developed allows cost-efficient lifetime prognosis of hybrid adhesive joints with hyperelastic material behaviour under fatigue loading. This counteracts over- and under-dimensioning and thus allows for a lifetime optimised component design, which enables savings in time-consuming, cost-intensive and geometry-dependent component fatigue tests. Serkan works in the Laboratory for material and joining technology (LWF), Paderborn University, in Germany. He holds a Master of Science in mechanical engineering.

The AIA 2020 winner will be announced on 15 June 2020. Please check [www.adhesionaward.org](http://www.adhesionaward.org) or [www.feica.eu](http://www.feica.eu) for more information.

The bi-annual EURADH/FEICA Adhesion Innovation Award is a great opportunity for both EURADH and FEICA to foster ties between industrial and scientific activities and to raise awareness of the outstanding contribution our sector's innovators make towards a circular economy and a better world.

### **Dr Florian Cavodeau**

'Hygrothermal ageing of an epoxy/dicyandiamide structural adhesive – Influence of water diffusion on the durability of the adhesive/galvanised steel interface'

Dr Cavodeau examined the moisture absorption of an expandable epoxy/dicyandiamide solid formulation designed for the automotive industry, focussing on the bulk of cured adhesive joints according to the water absorption under hydrothermal ageing. Results obtained in this study can be used to estimate the durability of a metal/adhesive interface in hygrothermal ageing conditions. Most industrial validation tests focus on the cohesive/adhesive aspect of failure areas. However, this work demonstrates that the durability of a structural joint could be mostly impacted by the durability of the polymer/metal interface, and the capacity of water to reach this interface. Knowing this, a way to design adhesive joints should be to improve the initial contact at the interface, limiting the presence of weak boundary layers, and lack of adhesion. Florian works at the Université de Haute-Alsace in France and holds a PhD in Chemistry and Physico-Chemistry of Materials and Polymers from the Université de Montpellier.

### **Artur Kochanke MSc**

'Adhesion mechanisms of addition curing silicones on aluminium oxides'

Artur's MSc work explores the adhesion mechanisms between polydimethylsiloxanes and aluminium oxides as a model for aluminium surfaces. The knowledge gained contributes to the understanding of the chemistry and adhesion mechanisms of silicones. It is highly relevant to the automotive industry. Millions of electronic control units with aluminium housings are sealed by silicones each year. The insights gained will make it possible to improve adhesion in an economic and sustainable way without the use of environmentally harmful surface pre-treatments and additives such as adhesion promoters. The improved reliability contributes on the one hand to passenger safety and on the other hand to durability and reduced maintenance costs. This will be of particular importance in the future with regard to autonomous driving.

Artur is a PhD student at the University of Bremen, in Germany (in cooperation with Robert Bosch GmbH, Corporate Research, Renningen).



### **Raul Domingos Ferreira Moreira MSc**

'High-cycle fatigue analysis of adhesively-bonded composite scarf repairs'

In this work, Raul Moreira MSc addresses the fracture characterisation of scarf adhesive repairs on carbon epoxy composites under high-cycle fatigue loading. As a result, a new cohesive zone model to deal with mixed-mode I + II high-cycle fatigue of composite bonded joints has been developed. In the transportation industry, the application of lightweight materials has been increasing due to their economic and ecological benefits. This is the case for carbon-fibre reinforced plastics (CFRP) materials, which have high specific stiffness and strength, allowing considerable weight savings with consequent reduction of fuel consumption. However, one of their main weaknesses is their susceptibility to internal damage, particularly delamination at interfaces. This model can be viewed as a valuable tool for designers to establish periods of life-cycle maintenance when these structural details (composite joints or repairs) are under fatigue loading.

Raul is a PhD student in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Porto in Portugal.





### **Sebastian Myslicki**

'Underwater glued stud bonding fasteners for offshore structures'

In 1980, the Alexander L. Kielland offshore oil platform capsized causing more than 120 fatalities. The cause was a fatigue crack originating in a tiny hydrophone support welded onto the primary structure. This disaster highlighted the fragility of steel structures regarding even minor welding operations. If that hydrophone were affixed using adhesive bonding, the dramatic failure would have been avoided. Adhesive bonding will not only dramatically reduce the risk of structural failure, increase service life and minimise wall thicknesses, which in turn leads to material savings, it will also lead to cost reduction because the coating and primary structure will not be damaged and therefore do not need a subsequent coating.

Sebastian will demonstrate that adhesive bonding has the potential to be used maritime applications and describe its potential in areas such as the burgeoning offshore wind power market. He is a Scientific Assistant at Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Technology and Advanced Materials (IFAM) in Bremen, Germany.



### **Filipe Gonalo Andrade da Silva MSc**

'Influence of adverse temperature and moisture conditions on the fracture behaviour of single-strap repairs of carbon-epoxy laminates'

Filipe studied the influence of temperature and moisture on the fracture properties of carbon-epoxy bonded joints. Fracture characterisation under mode I, mode II and mixed-mode I+II was performed to assess the influence of the adverse conditions. Composite structures are prone to suffer damage due to several types of loading. The development of suitable and adequate repair strategies is crucial for economic and ecological reasons. Bonded joints are increasingly being used due to their well-known advantages. However, they are susceptible to degradation under adverse environmental conditions. This work allows designers to assess the residual strength of a bonded repair after exposure to adverse conditions.

Filipe is a PhD student at the Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, Portugal.

### **Dr Joo Sousa**

'Durability of adhesively bonded connections between GFRP adherends'

Dr Sousa investigated the durability of adhesively bonded connections between GFRP adherends. Fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) composites are increasingly being used in applications in aggressive environmental conditions. Although adhesively bonded connections offer several potential benefits, there are concerns about their long-term performance and durability for civil engineering applications. Epoxy and polyurethane structural adhesives were studied. The results helped to enhance the reliability of the use of alternative and lighter materials and reassure industry that adhesively bonded connections can be used safely and guarantee an adequate performance in civil engineering applications. In addition, several test results and outputs of prediction and numerical models included in this investigation were used in the development of the new Eurocode for FRP Structures, under preparation by the Project Team PT.WG2 and the Working Group 4 of CEN/TC250.

Joo is Site Engineer and Project Manager, Construtora Udra, Grupo San Jose in Portugal. He has a PhD in Civil Engineering from the Instituto Superior Tcnico (IST) at the University of Lisbon.

### **Lidor Zabari**

'Safe shower'

Mr Zabari is the founder of 'Safe Shower'. Safe Shower invented a unique shower head, patent based, that minimises the risk of Legionnaires' disease from sources in shower heads by continuous disinfection in the shower head, with a small sized disinfection unit that operates only when the water stops.

This is thanks to silicon valves that also prevent air entry and minimise the formation of aerosols and scale. Mr Zabari and 'Safe Shower' team believe that this patent will save lives. In addition, they predict that it will save a great deal on hotel and hospital costs, ease maintenance tasks, reduce the need for preventative actions such as disinfecting the water system in cases of Legionella positive results, etc.

Lidor holds a Master of Public Health (MPH) from the School of Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine, Tel Aviv University, in Israel.



**Dr Andrea Spaggiari**

'A design-oriented multi-axial stress-based criterion for the strength assessment of adhesive layers'

One of the main drawbacks in exploiting adhesively bonded joints is the lack of simple yet usable information about the strength of adhesives.

This information considers a monoaxial state. Unfortunately, almost all adhesive applications develop a strong multi-axial state of stress, so a multi-axial criterion is needed. This project demonstrates the applicability of a simple stress-based criterion which can be used to predict the failure of adhesive bonded joints. This will increase the confidence of the industrial world in the adhesive world so that industry considers adhesives a standard technology, just like welding or riveting. This will help achieve major benefits, such as: ease of disassembly in order to recycle the different components and increasing of the use of dissimilar materials (such as G/CFRP), which are much more efficient than traditional metal structures.

Andrea is a Researcher in Mechanical Design at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy. He holds a PhD in High Mechanics and Automotive Design and Technology - Modelling and Mechanical Design Methods from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia.

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**FEICA's one-component foam (OCF) test methods have been approved as CEN standards.**

One-component foam (OCF) manufacturers, representing more than 90% of the market in Europe, have developed, within FEICA, standardised test methods which allow the performance of OCF products to be measured, compared and communicated in an accurate manner, allowing customers to buy with confidence.

All the companies represented at FEICA have committed to using these standard methods to evaluate and communicate the various properties of their products. As a result, customers can rest assured that the data they read on product packaging provides an accurate and honest representation of the product performance, allowing a reliable comparison of different OCF products. FEICA OCF test methods are available for download from the [FEICA website](#). Also see full [Press Release](#).

# CHALLENGES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR DOWNSTREAM USERS OF CHEMICALS

## DUCC

Founded in 2001, the Downstream Users of Chemicals Co-ordination group (DUCC) is a joint platform of 11 European associations representing mostly formulators, for example cosmetics and detergents, paints, adhesives and sealants, inks, aerosols, lubricants and chemical distributors industries. The membership comprises more than 9,000 companies across Europe, with a calculated turnover of more than 215 billion euros in Europe. The vast majority of DUCC's members are SMEs, so DUCC will continue to act as an important voice for such smaller downstream users regarding legislation. Its main objective is to contribute, with a common voice, to the successful implementation of the requirements of the REACH and CLP Regulations, ensuring that downstream users' needs, rights, duties and specificities are taken into account.

FEICA is a long-standing member of DUCC and has played, and continues to play, a major role in contributing to and leading some of DUCC's initiatives. FEICA and other downstream users work through DUCC because it allows us to present a much more powerful voice, representing a sizeable chunk of economic activity in Europe.

## ENES

As a co-founder of the Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios (ENES) and the Chemical Safety Report/Exposure Scenarios Roadmap (CSR/ES Roadmap), one of DUCC's primary aims will be to continue the work to improve supply chain communication.

Supply chain communication is of particular importance to our industry. As formulators, adhesive and sealant companies use chemicals purchased from suppliers to manufacture products that are sold on, primarily for use to industrial partners, but sometimes also to consumers. It is crucial that we review any Exposure Scenario documents received from our suppliers to ensure that our uses are covered. If they are not, we should contact the supplier to request that it is included. In addition, we are obliged in turn to supply relevant safety documents to our customers to ensure that they can handle and use our products safely and efficiently.

DUCC has a history of supporting REACH, and published a paper outlining the activities that our members have spearheaded. In 2018-19, FEICA was particularly involved in the DUCC/Cefic pilot project on Exposure Scenarios and communication in the supply chain, which made a key contribution to REACH Review Action 3 (RRA3) on improving the extended Safety Data Sheet.

Following this work, and recent discussions with ECHA and CARACAL, we expect the mandate of ENES to be revamped to take on some technical development work aimed at improving supply chain communication and we will remain committed to continuing to support this work.

## Safety Data Sheets

DUCC actively engaged with the Forum working group on Safety Data Sheet quality in 2019. DUCC members continue to engage in dialogue with other stakeholders to find pragmatic solutions to improving the safety data sheet and ensuring it is well understood within industry, and has been invited to present its activities and main challenges to the Forum's 2020 open session.

In general, the principles for a coherent system are accepted and there is overall agreement on the main findings of the RRA3 'Scoping Phase'. CARACAL members support the proposed approach to establish an enhanced system for extended Safety Data Sheets to improve the information flow in the supply chain.



continued on next page

## CLP issues

FEICA is also actively engaged within DUCC on a number of important issues relating to classification, labelling and packaging.

In collaboration with sector organisations representing retailers, DUCC is raising awareness of CLP obligations – notably online sales - through a series of '[Guidance at a Glance](#)' leaflets and plans to increase the scope and intensity of such cooperation in future. Improving communication, especially to consumers, through simpler labels and leveraging the potential of digitalisation is also a key area of activity for FEICA and DUCC in the coming months and years.

As predominantly formulators of mixtures, FEICA members are significantly impacted by the requirements of CLP Article 45 and Annex VIII.

We continue to be deeply involved in advocacy, including within DUCC, on essential legislative amendments to solve workability issues, and in supporting members on practical measures for implementation of the complex and highly detailed requirements.

## Polymers

The subject of polymers requiring registration is also a priority for FEICA and DUCC because it may have major consequences for downstream users.

As downstream users of polymers, we mainly rely on the manufacturers of such substances for a more detailed understanding of the properties. However, many downstream users also customise polymers, which may lead to the creation of new polymers. Currently, these will be exempt from REACH because the monomers and reactants will have usually been registered.

A potential need to register such 'customised polymers' will completely change the situation for our members that customise polymers as it will shift their position from mere downstream users of substances to manufacturers of polymers. Other DUCC sectors are importers, thus acting as registrants.

**Consequently, FEICA will be monitoring developments in this area and taking appropriate action to try to mitigate any burden on our members.**

# INDUSTRY4EUROPE ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S 'NEW INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY FOR EUROPE'

## **Industry4Europe, a coalition of 154 industry Associations, including FEICA, supports the EU's 'New Industrial Strategy for Europe'**

The European Commission recognises industry to be 'central to Europe's future progress and prosperity'. Launched three years ago, the Industry4Europe coalition has consistently called on the European Institutions to develop an ambitious EU industrial strategy that helps Europe remain a hub for a leading, smart, innovative and sustainable industry, and that provides quality jobs and benefits all Europeans and future generations.

The sector associations of the Coalition will now carefully review and assess all individual measures proposed by the European Commission. We will keep you posted on any new developments through the usual channels. See the coalition's [Press Release](#).





## ECHA ANNOUNCES FLEXIBILITY FOR COMPANIES DUE TO COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), together with the European Commission, announced some flexibility for certain regulatory processes and deadlines. The agency published a specific [web page](#) with more information.

The flexibility covers a broad range of deadlines such as invoices and the submission of additional data for dossier checks.

## COMPLETENESS CHECK OF CHEMICAL SAFETY REPORTS POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER 2020

Due to the implications COVID-19 may have for companies, the extension of the manual completeness checks to chemical safety reports has been postponed to October 2020.

More information is available on the [ECHA website](#).

## ECHA LAUNCHES NEW EU CHEMICALS LEGISLATION FINDER

ECHA's new online service, the EU Chemicals Legislation Finder (EUCLEF), gives companies access to a free-of-charge overview of 40 pieces of EU chemicals legislation they may need to comply with. More information is available from the [ECHA website](#).

**Pertinent information from ECHA and the Commission is distributed to FEICA Members every month via the FEICA UPDATE. If you are a Member and would like to receive the UPDATE, please write to [news@feica.eu](mailto:news@feica.eu).**

# A FAREWELL AT FEICA



This month we say farewell to Divina Gómez who will begin a new phase in her career. Divina has worked with great dedication in Regulatory Affairs at our association for almost 10 years. She was very much appreciated by all her colleagues, our members and everyone she worked with.

Divina's achievements ranged from Biocides and CLP regulations to contributions to various consultations aiming to shape legislation. She assisted members with information on the developments and potential impacts of regulatory issues for our sector, and was instrumental in FEICA's accomplishments relating to REACH-related issues such as Exposure Scenarios and supply-chain communication, including the 'use map packages'. She represented FEICA at many stakeholder groups (the Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios at ECHA, Cefic, OSHA and Member States) and was an integral part of the Downstream Users of Chemicals Coordination group (DUCC) where she was nominated vice-chair in December 2019.

Of course, Regulatory Affairs remains an area of very high importance to our membership and we have already started recruiting Divina's successor. We envisage to have someone in place soon. I'm sure you will all join us in thanking Divina for all her hard work and wish her success in all her future endeavours.

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**FEICA**  
Avenue E. van Nieuwenhuysse 2  
B-1160 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: + 32 (0) 2 896 96 00  
[info@feica.eu](mailto:info@feica.eu) | [www.feica.eu](http://www.feica.eu)