

## Press Release

Plovdiv, June 21, 2013

### **CEFA General Assembly in Plovdiv/Bulgaria**

- **Admission of Agrokomplex - Výstavníctvo Nitra and TIF Thessaloniki International Fair as new CEFA members**
- **Regular Elections of Chairman, Secretary General, Treasurer and Auditor to set the course for the next three years**
- **CEFA President 2014: Daniela Gligorovska, Expo Media Skopje Fair Group/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

The General Assembly of CEFA – Central European Fair Alliance was held on June 21, 2013, in Plovdiv/Bulgaria. Host of the 30 participants, which represented 12 trade fair organizers and two associated members, was IFP International Fair Plovdiv.

The main topics of the CEFA General Assembly were

- The admission of Agrokomplex Výstavníctvo Nitra/Slowakia und TIF Thessaloniki International Fair/Greece as new members
- The rotational election of the CEFA President 2014 as well as of the other members of the CEFA bodies
- The preparation of the CEFA events 2013 and 2014
- The follow-up of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region activities

The participants were welcomed by Ivan Totev, Mayor of Plovdiv. He underlined, that the Private Public Partnership between International Fair Plovdiv (IFP) and Municipality City of Plovdiv, which was started in 2007, proved to be very effective. The Plovdiv Government will continue to cooperate with IFP to further organize successful trade fairs.

Georgi Gergov, President of CEFA and CEO of International Fair Plovdiv, emphasized at the General Assembly 2013, that CEFA as a successful network of trade fair organizers is providing a lot of ideas and transmitting valuable knowledge at the regular meetings and seminars. Thus the relationships among the members are getting stronger, co-operations are fostered and activities for the mutual benefit of all members are initiated. The International Fair Plovdiv is profiting from the CEFA activities as well.

### **New Members**

At the Steering Committee Meeting in Zagreb in spring 2013 the admission of Agrokomplex - Výstavníctvo Nitra/Slovakia and of TIF Thessaloniki International Fair/Greece was discussed and recommended. The General Assembly 2013 approved the proposal, so that now CEFA has grown to 26 members in 17 countries of Central and Southeastern Europe

### **Elections of the CEFA Board Members until 2016**

The regular elections for the CEFA Board had the following results:

- As CEFA Chairman Matthias Limbeck, Managing Director of Reed Messe Vienna, was elected. He succeeds to Klaus Dittrich, Chairman and CEO of Messe München.
- Franz Reisbeck will be Secretary General until the end of 2014. He then wants to resign from this post due to reaching retirement age
- As Treasurer Elisabeth Nitzlnader, Reed Messe Vienna, was re-elected.
- The position of Auditor will be taken over from Dr. Bernhard Erler, Kärntner Messen Klagenfurt, by Norbert Schmidt, Managing Director of BVV Trade Fairs Brno.

All positions were accepted unanimously. With the members present and those with voting rights transferred to them the participation to vote was 84.5 per cent.

After the elections the new CEFA Chairman Matthias Limbeck emphasized the good and trustful cooperation between CEFA members. He said, that he stands up to that also in the future CEFA membership will have a high added value for all members. He also wants to further promote co-operations regarding trade fairs with similar

topics between the members, to be even more attractive to the members. CEFA is an excellent network of relationship brokers, which members altogether have more than 130,000 exhibitors and about nine million visitors. With all its activities a total turnover of more than 460 million EUR is reached.

### **Presidency 2014**

The yearly election of the president resulted in a unanimous vote for Daniela Gligorovska, Executive Director Expo Media - Skopje Fair Group/Formal Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. She will be CEFA president for the year 2014 and the first woman at the top of this organization.

### **CEFA Activities 2013/2014**

Until autumn 2014 six CEFA events are to be held:

- The Steering Committee Meeting in Bozen-Bolzano/Italy on September 18 and 19, 2013
- The CEFA Experts Meeting with the topic „Green Venues“ on October 17 and 18, 2013, in Skopje/Formal Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- The Steering Committee Meeting in March 2014
- The CEFA Professionals Seminar end of April/beginning of May 2014 in Thessaloniki/Greece
- The General Assembly 2014 in Skopje/Formal Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- The Steering Committee Meeting in September 2014 in Pordenone/Italy.

### **Follow-up of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region**

Following the CEFA activities regarding the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, which were started in November 2012 in Budapest, there will be a meeting with the responsible EU Commissioner Johannes Hahn in Brussels in summer. Also scheduled is a meeting with Emilia Müller, Bavarian Minister of State for Federal and European Matters in September in Munich. The aim is, to outline how trade fairs could be of use for the implementation of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region.

CEFA/ES

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**About CEFA – Central European Fair Alliance**

CEFA – Central European Fair Alliance was founded in January 1995. To make central and south east Europe a stronger venue for trade fairs and exhibitions of international significance, and one which extends beyond mere physical borders trade fair companies have joined forces in CEFA. Trade fair organisers in Belgrade, Bolzano/Bozen, Brno, Bucharest, Budapest, Budva, Celje, Chisinau, Graz, Klagenfurt, Ljubljana, Munich (Messe München, Gesellschaft für Handwerksmessen), Nitra, Novi Sad, Plovdiv, Pordenone, Sarajevo, Skopje, Sofia, Thessaloniki, Tirana and Vienna as well as associated members and cooperation partners from Bucharest, Celje and Zagreb have decided to meet the process of European integration by working together more closely in the areas of marketing and public relations, exchanging know-how and participating in joint training activities. The objective of CEFA is to tackle new problems in an age of increased globalisation with future-oriented solutions.

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