

*Sofia, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019*

**EFESME**, the *European Federation for Elevators Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*, is the voice and representative of European SMEs working in the lift sector. Thanks to its projects, its experts, and its activities, EFESME defends SMEs' rights and interests, and support their daily work with a series of targeted actions at European and international level.

Established in 2005 by initially five founding members, EFESME was created to meet the need for representation and support expressed by the small and medium-sized enterprises working in the lift industry. There was a need to be heard and taken into consideration in the context and processes where the most important decisions for the lift sector were taken.

There was a need for safeguarding the lift SMEs' interests in a market at risk of being completely controlled by the big, multinational industry.

There was the desire to preserve the uniqueness, the talents and the originality that always accompany the work of SMEs.

EFESME was created to answer to this widespread urgency. In the past fourteen years, the Federation has grown in an unceasing and proactive manner, firmly believing in its role, its capabilities, and its many ambitious objectives.

The Federation now proudly counts 15 national associations representing 14 Members States and thousands of workers all around Europe. Bulgaria, EFESME's newest member, represents an interesting opportunity for the Federation: it is a young, dynamic, and growing organization. It is a new area for EFESME, which the Federation hopes to discover and support thanks to our Bulgarian member and its partners.

## **EFESME activities**

EFESME has undertaken several actions on several fronts to make its weight and importance felt at European and international level: it does represent, after-all, thousands of workers whose rights must be protected and whose need must be listened.

### **1. EFESME technical activities**

The technical level, thanks to the many projects followed and implemented so far, and thanks to the quality of the experts' work, is the field in which EFESME is particularly active, propositive, and influential.

EFESME is active both at the European and at the international level, thanks to the skilled contributions from its experts, and it collaborates with the most important Standardisation Organisation, such as CEN-CENELEC, ETSI, and ISO.

One of the objective of EFESME is to provide both the European Institutions and the Standardisation Organisation with technical and informative support.

EFESME wants to offer a clear and comprehensive view about the manufacturing systems of lifts; it wishes to be actively involved in all technical and normative issues, which directly or indirectly affect SMEs and their competitive position in the market; it strives to represent at best the SME's instances on the technical field.

To achieve so, at the European level, EFESME experts directly and actively works with the *European Committee for Standardisation – CEN* and with the *European Telecommunications Standards Institute – ETSI*, by participating in the activities of some of their Technical Committees and Working Groups, such as the *CEN/TC 10 - Lifts, escalators and moving walks*, and the *ETSI M2M – Machine to Machine* group.

In addition, EFESME experts participate in both the *Lifts Standing Committee* and *Lifts Working Group* meetings. Both bodies were established to assist the European Commission in the application of the Lifts Directive (Directive 2014/33/EU) by taking into accounts opinions and inputs by different stakeholders.

The experts also work within the *Notified Bodies for Lifts*, and they are following with great interests the development of the *Eco-design Directive*, to monitor how this important piece of European legislation may affect the lift sector in the near future.

On the other hand, at the international level, EFESME contribute to the activities of the *International Organisation for Standardisation – ISO*.



In this organisation, EFESME is active within the *Technical Committee ISO TC178 - Lifts, escalators and moving walks*, bringing to international level the experience, skills, and expertise, developed at European level through the continuous interaction with its members and with the SMEs represented.

EFESME's strength lies in its knowledge of the reality of SMEs working at European level, and in being supported and motivated by the trust they place in the Federation to obtain the best results for their protection and support.

## **2. EFESME political activities:**

The political activity headed by the board of director, President, Secretary General and Vice President is developed within the European Institution and within the Standards Organisations, in this case, accordingly with the inputs given after the different technical meetings. It is a lobbying activity based on the factual knowledge given by the experts' work, as well as the experiences and testimonies of EFESME members.

Today, the presence of EFESME in Brussels is fundamental and indispensable to carry out the activities that are the foundation and soul of the Federation. Our organization allows the Federation to be in continuous contact keeping a positive dialogue with the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Thanks to years of collaboration, projects, and passionate work that have all led to remarkable results, EFESME has acquired considerable influence at the European level, which allows the Federation to make its voice heard in protecting SMEs within a competitive market.

Over the years, EFESME's reputation has grown in a solid and stable manner, and is now a treasure trove of credibility that allows the Federation to make its voice heard in meetings with the European bodies, and to support vigorously and resolutely the positions needed to protect SMEs.

A transparent lobbying and advocacy activity, both within the Working Groups and the Technical Committees and *vis-à-vis* with the European Institutions, and supported by the work of technical experts, is increasingly aimed at achieving the objectives of a fairer and more inclusive Europe, which is tailored to micro and small businesses.



## **EFESME is collaborating with other organisations supporting SMEs**

This lobbying activities is possible also thanks to EFESME's membership to organisations such as SBS – Small Business Standards and SMEUnited, which give the Federation further tools and possibilities to strengthen and grow in its lobbying activities as well as in its technical activities.

SMEUnited makes EFESME part of a network of European SME associations representing more than 12 million Companies.

SBS provides EFESME with more practical support for activities to be carried out in defence of SMEs and their interests when dealing with writing and developing standards that will then influence their daily work.

SBS' support is not only financial for EFESME, although this is an essential aspect; it is also a technical support, it is knowledge, contacts, and expertise made available so that EFESME can work best to defend its members, the SMEs they represent and thousands of workers in Europe.

*This is what EFESME is, and what EFESME does. But there is much more.*

*There is the ongoing interest in **Digitalisation and Cybersecurity**, in the opportunities and risks they may create for small and medium sized enterprises in the lift sector.*

*There are the commitments taken by EFESME in five specific areas via its **Manifesto 2019-2024**, which highlights the priorities and objectives for the next five years, in the light of the recent European elections, with the intention of increasingly involving the European Parliament and the European Commission in the life of SMEs.*

*There is the intention to be involved **more and more in the work of CEN, ISO, and ETSI** to meet the needs and priorities of EFESME members.*

*There is so much more to do, and it is something that EFESME and its Bulgarian member can do, together.*

*Thank you for your attention*