



## CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

**Brussels, 19-20 December 2013**

On 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the last European Council for 2013 was held in Brussels. During the first day of works the Heads of State and Government discussed on European defense, both referring to a security standpoint and to industry and employment.

The Secretary General of NATO, Mr. Rasmussen, opened the work and underlined the complementarity of NATO and the EU, in line with the position already expressed by the President Van Rompuy. The European Council set out a series of actions to be carried out in three different areas: defence capabilities, defence policy, defence industry and joint operations. With regard to the defence industry, the Heads of State and Government emphasized on investments in this sector, to create a momentum to leverage technology and innovation to create jobs. A first assessment on the actions taken will be realized in 2015.



The European Council also discussed on Banking Union. The Heads of State and Government took note of the State of the art of the matter, expressing satisfaction with the results achieved. Van Rompuy referred to the three pillars constituting the Banking Union (deposit schemes, unique resolution and supervision) and recalled its legislative process.

Van Rompuy then referred to the Partnership for competitiveness, growth and employment, another theme to which European leaders were confronted.

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The idea behind this tool is to encourage key structural reforms through a balanced approach to deepen greater national ownership, through mutually agreed partnership. The Heads of State and Government decided that the Partnership will consist of mutually agreed contractual arrangements and agreements of solidarity, which should be developed at the same time. The goal is to reach a final agreement on this instrument by October 2014.

On the second day of activity, the Heads of State and Government focused on foreign policy, in particular Ukraine, Middle East, Africa and Central Iran. They then focused on asylum and migration flows, welcoming actions taken after the tragedy in Lampedusa and deciding to come back to the issue in the European Council in June, to assess developments in the matter.

With reference to the issue of competitiveness, growth and employment, the President Van Rompuy ensured that there is a constant monitoring of the progress made under the Pact for growth and employment. The President of the EIB, Hoyer, during his speech, updated attendees on funding granted by the EIB to SMEs. It was recalled that in January new European funds will be available, which further strengthen the resources available to support the real economy.



Finally, the European Council discussed the initiative for youth employment. Within the framework of the guarantee for young people, Member States that have not yet submitted their plans for implementation were invited to meet the deadline.

### **Small Business Standards: a better participation for SMEs in standardisation process**

Small Business Standards (SBS), is the newly-established association representing European SMEs in the standardisation process at European and International levels, which was set up to cope with the termination of NORMAPME.

EFESME, along with UEAPME and EBC, put a lot of efforts to be fully involved in drafting this project from the very beginning of its creation. As a consequence, EFESME was one of the eight founding members of SBS, which was formally and legally established on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2013 the first General

Assembly was held in Brussels and our Vice President Mr. Massimo Bezzi was appointed among the official SBS Board Members. During the meeting, the founding members of the association welcomed new members and decided on the nomination of the first round of technical experts. EFESME managed to confirm two technical experts, Mr. Giuseppe Iotti for the CEN/TC10 and Mr. Luciano Faletto for the ISO/TC178, and was the only founding member to appoint two experts.

Next steps. On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2014 SBS will have its first Board of Directors, were more operational decisions will be discussed.

## POVESA convention in Athens

On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2013 an important meeting organized by the Greek Association POVESA was held in the headquarters of the Association of Artisans of Athens (GESVEE) in Athens. The meeting was attended by the EFESME Vice President Mr. Massimo Bezzi and our technical expert Mr. Luciano Faletto.

The meeting was opened with an introduction by the President of POVESA Mr. Georgios Vlasopoulos, to enlighten the public on the characteristics of the local market. In front of a large and attentive audience, the Vice President Bezzi gave an update on the present and future activities of EFESME; he was followed by the interesting and detailed contribution of Luciano Faletto focused energy efficiency, a very sensitive issue for the SMEs in the sector.



At the end of Mr. Faletto's intervention, the President of POVESA Mr. Vlasopoulos presented the difficulties of the SMEs of the lift sector in Greek, mainly following the new legislative framework adopted at European level.

The contribution of the speakers was enriched by a debate with the audience, which made it possible to develop and clarify the topics presented.

During the event, EFESME was asked to eventually give support to the Greek association's activities at

European level. Moreover, a possible involvement and support of UEAPME could be asked in this regards.

At the end of the event, a press conference was organised to reinforce the concepts expressed during the morning and underline the profound difficulties faced by the members of POVESA, following the changes introduced in the lift national regulatory framework, which are causing a deep discomfort to the Greek Associates due to significant modification to the profession of lift maintainer.

## EFESME experience in Interlift '13

**15-18 October 2013**

As every past edition, EFESME took part in October 2013 in the International Exhibition *Interlift* in Augsburg, Germany. The participation to the fair granted to EFESME a good visibility thanks to the **stand** and the promotional and informative material distributed to visitors. Moreover, many **bilateral meetings** were held between the Directors of EFESME and other counterparts to strengthen our work.

During the Interlift '13, EFESME also organised in a **technical convention** focused on issues very sensitive for the SMEs of our sector. "The impact of the new EU rules on the

SMEs of the lift sector” was the item of the discussion, where both the implication of SMEs in the standardisation bodies and the impact of European Energetic Directives on the SMEs of the sector were discussed. The meeting was organised in the morning of 17th October and the panel was composed by the representative of the CEN – CENELEC Mrs. Ingrid Soetaert, the representative of the



Italian National Standardisation Body Mr. Paolo Tattoli and

our technical expert for CEN/TC10 Mr. Giuseppe Iotti, who shared their expert involvement.

Near the end of the Fair, EFESME organised in Augsburg its **Board of Directors**, who benefitted from an impressive participation among its member associations.



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