The Board of Directors and the EFESME General Meeting took place on Monday 15th June, via remote due to the current situation.

During the meeting, the EFESME members planned the future activities of the Federation in support of European SMEs and stressed the importance of continuing to be active and committed both at European and international level, in technical and political activities.

The collaboration with the European Commission and SBS – Small Business Standards, as well as with other important stakeholders in the sector, such as SMEunited, has been highlighted as extremely important. The members were very satisfied with the way the activities were carried out and the positions taken, and renewed their commitment to support more and more European SMEs.

The day also included a public session, which allowed the Federation to present its activities, events and initiatives to guests, SMEs and stakeholders alike.

During the public session, EFESME members and experts were able to illustrate the technical activity carried out in recent months, the events organized and future events, demonstrating that the Federation’s activities have continued despite the limitations imposed by the crisis.

>>> The press release is available on the EFESME website

The public session, wanted by President Bezzi so that EFESME would be closer and closer to the SME at this difficult time, opened with a panel dedicated to SBS – Small Business Standards. During this panel, SBS Director, Maitane Olabarria Uzquiano, introduced herself and presented the important role that SBS plays in the world of standardisation to protect SMEs.

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After Olabarri Uzquiano, the various EFESME technical experts spoke about their activities, supported by SBS, in several WGs within European and international standardization bodies, such as:

- **CEN-CENELEC** (Tiziano Caresani for CEN-TC10 WG13, Luciano Faletto and Ivan Ferrarini for CEN TC 10 WG1 and CEN TC10 TF HaS),
- **ETSI** (Marco Cogliati for the Smart M2M),
- **ISO** (Luciano Faletto and Lars Odlen in ISO TC178)

As well as within the *Notified Bodies* (Faletto) and the *European Commission’s Working Group on the Machinery Directive* (Caresani).

As such, the EFESME experts showed how the Federation’s technical activity has continued in a lively manner despite the restrictions due to **COVID-19**.

On this subject, the *European guidelines developed by EFESME* with the support of its members and technical experts were presented during the General Assembly. The document, available for download on the EFESME website (in English), is a **compendium of good practices to be kept when working on an installation for maintenance, repair and/or rescue of trapped persons**. The final document was supported by SBS and **SMEunited**, and was finalized with the collaboration of **ELA**, the EFESME counterpart for big companies and multinationals, whose President, Roberto Zappa, and Secretary General, Luca Pezzini, were both present during the meeting.

Again regarding to the **COVID emergency**, some members of EFESME, specifically ANACAM, FEPYMA and VmA, presented the **initiatives carried out at national level**, illustrating the guidelines and infographics prepared, and spoke into details about the various meetings organized online to inform their members.
The last panel of the Assembly was dedicated to the **activities carried out by EFESME with its members** outside the COVID-19 emergency, i.e. all those activities developed in previous years and which have regularly continued despite the crisis.

Particular emphasis was given both to the **Digital Working Group**, which is responsible for developing the Federation’s position on digitization and cybersecurity and coordinating the activities of the experts involved, and to the **events organized by the members at national level**. Ralph Kanzler (VmA - Germany) briefly presented the results of the VmA General Assembly in March, in which EFESME participated with Vice President Damyan Petrov, while Luca Incoronato introduced the ANACAM Expo & Convention next December in Milan. José María Compagni, instead, representative for FEPYMA (Spain), relaunched the idea of organizing an online Lift SMEs European Congress after the cancellation of their event in Seville in October.

**EFESME and its members are particularly satisfied with the quality of the activities carried out so far, and for the efforts made by all to continue to work and support SMEs during the crisis**: the excellent results achieved despite the difficulties are proof that, working together, the sector can come out of the crisis stronger and more lively than before.

>>> More information on the Public GA is available on the **EFESME website**
EFESME develops a set of guidelines to work safely during the COVID-19 emergency

In order to meet the particular needs of the lift sector during the COVID-19 emergency, and to complete with specific instructions the various national protocols on how to work safely, EFESME has developed sector guidelines to give clear and precise indications on how to behave when it is necessary to intervene at an installation for maintenance, repair and rescue of trapped people.

The document, developed on the basis of input and comments submitted by the various EFESME members, was developed during several meetings by a group of experts and technicians with different experiences in the field. The group created a document broad enough to be shared by the various members, but at the same time specific enough to provide useful and sectorial indications where the various protocols could not go into detail. The elaboration of the final version also saw the participation of ELA - European Lift Association, EFESME's counterpart for large companies and multinationals in the sector, and counts on the support of SBS - Small Business Standards and SMEunited, proving how crucial it is for SMEs to be able to rely both on precise, simple and shared information from the various actors in the sector, and on the support of the European organisations created in support of their needs and their work.

The aim of the guidelines is to provide a compendium of good practices specific to the sector and for interventions outside a company and on an installation, so that a technician knows how to operate safely even in those particular cases not covered by national protocols, who they do not go into detail.

Furthermore, the broad nature of these guidelines allows them to be adapted at national and/or even regional level where authorities have thought of stricter rules.

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EFESME has also already confirmed that two of its members, ANACAM for Italy and ANPA for France, are working on the translation of the guidelines at national level, so that, once again, the work done at European level can find its fulfilment and material usefulness at national level, in order to effectively support the daily work of SMEs that the Federation represents.

>>> The guidelines are available for download on the EFESME website

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BASIC GENERAL INFORMATION NOTE TO WORK SAFELY
Compendium of good practices for a safe behaviour

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Upcoming meetings 2020

* Mr Luciano Faletto and Mr Ivan Ferrarini will attend the CEN TC10 WG1 meeting on the 1st-2nd of September.

* Mr Lars Oldane will participate to the ISO TC AHG meeting on the 8th-10th September.

* Mr Tiziano Caresani will attend the CEN TC10 WG13 meeting on the 15th-16th September.

* Mr Marco Cogliati will participate to the ETSI Smart M2M meeting on the 22nd-23rd September.

* The SBS Annual Conference will take place on the 29th of September in Brussels.

* The SBS Expert Meeting will take place on the 21st of October.

* Mr Luciano Faletto and Mr Ivan Ferrarini will attend the CEN TC10 WG1 meeting on the 23rd-24th of November.

* Mr Marco Cogliati will participate to the ETSI Smart M2M meeting on the 15th-17th of December.
On May 12th, Efesme participated in the global webinar organized by ELEVATOR WORLD India, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the lift sector. The president of the Federation, Mr Massimo Bezzi, had the opportunity to discuss with other important actors of the sector, to analyse together the current situation, exchange ideas and opinions on how to face, overcome and, why not, learn from the crisis generated by COVID-19.

The leitmotiv of the event was the undeniable fact that the sector, like the whole economy, is living a unique historical moment in its drama, but also in its opportunities. The pandemic has, in fact, rewritten the most common rules of life, creating new paradigms that, in all probability, will change again in the coming months. According to the participants of the event, however, these changes will not only be negative, but may open new opportunities previously unknown. In fact, the potential of remote tools as alternative forms for training activities and event organization, as well as for daily work, show how the elevator industry can adapt and find useful solutions to overcome difficulties.
The **impact that COVID-19 has had on the sector in the various countries** was discussed, highlighting the **differences between the various situations**. In **South America**, for example, the peak of the emergency seems not to have been reached yet, but there is already significant economic damage, while in **Africa** the construction and elevator industry is almost entirely blocked, if not for telework activities.

China, the United States and Europe, on the other hand, seem to be on the road to a slow recovery. In **China**, the importance and growth of the construction sector has slightly mitigated the impact of COVID-19 in the elevator sector as well, and the Chinese market is focusing on IoT and IA to recover. In the **United States**, there are very different situations due to the high concentration of activities and people along the coast rather than inland, while in **Europe** there have been (with rare exceptions) total lockdown situations, when companies' activities saw a significant, if not complete, slowdown.

Nevertheless, **the situation seems to be returning to normal**, and thanks to interventions by national governments, supported in Europe by the resources and programmes of the European Union, there is a **cautious optimism**, which must not, however, give a false sense of security and which **must provide a push to return to work at a good pace**.

There were also talks about the **importance of the measures adopted so far by governments to fight the crisis**, which certainly differ from continent to continent, but all equally crucial, and of how the protection of the production chain and the guarantee of liquidity and investments by the authorities are crucial points to restart the economy.

**Safety at work** was another fundamental issue: about this, EFESME presented the guidelines developed with the help of its members and experts, and with the collaboration of ELA, a **compendium of good practices in support of European, national, regional and/or local laws**. The European document, in English, is available on the EFESME website.

Where is undeniable that there will be major changes, also in the structure of the equipment, installation and maintenance, and the way cabin air is changed, and that the need to have shared standards also regarding the procedures to be followed in safety, the meeting demonstrated the resilience and creativity of the sector, and presented interesting inputs to exploit the crisis and come out stronger.

>>> More information is available on the EFESME website

>>> The recording of the Webinar is available on EW India Facebook profile
As part of the digitalisation activities that EFESME is carrying out with its members, the EFESME Digital Working Group took place on the 20th of May.

The two most important items on the agenda were the participation of Trakia.Tech, a Bulgarian think-tank specialized in digitalisation, digital security and opportunities for the future, and the discussion on the role of digitalisation during the COVID-19 emergency and in the coming months.

The Trakia.Tech's guests, Georgi Stoeff (Chairman), Chudmir Delchev (Cloud & DevOps Architect) and Yovko Lambrev (Cloud & Infrastructure Architect) spoke about the projects the think-tank is carrying out in the elevator sector thanks to the collaboration with Damyan Petrov, Vice-President of EFESME and CEO of Prolift Ltd. (Bulgaria), grasping the potential of the lift sector and working on data produced by an installation (system data, environmental data, etc.), to share and combine them to organize and complete maintenance and repair work more effectively.

The topic started a discussion between experts and guests on access to data and the role that SMEs can and should have in the future thanks the potential created by better access to data for their activities. EFESME hopes that the discussion on this topic can continue in the future, and is already taking steps to organize a second meeting with Trakia.Tech to further deepen the topics introduced during this WG.

With regard to the role of digitalisation itself the discussion was mainly about the possibilities and opportunities that the COVID-19 emergency can create for SMEs.

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Although it is clear that the health emergency has caused immense difficulties for the sector and the economy as a whole, the virus itself can create opportunities for the sector, as already addressed during the EW India Webinar on 12th May.

During both the EW India Webinar and the EFESME Digital WG, a sense of cautious optimism prevailed with respect to the added potential of digitalisation in the months to come, creating new opportunities for SMEs to offer innovative services thanks to the creativity and flexibility typical of SMEs give them an edge over other players in the sector.

Still on the digital theme, EFESME and the coordinators of the Digital WG, Damyan Petrov (Vice-President, Bulgaria) and Ralph Kanzler (Germany), have decided to develop a questionnaire on how COVID-19 has impacted SMEs activities with regard to remote working, and what are the expectations for the digital future of their businesses.

The next EFESME Digital WG will take place in a couple of months, following the calendar of working groups at ETSI and ISO with the participation of the Federation’s experts.

>>> More information is available on the EFESME website
EFESME has published its second quarterly report on the monitoring of the most important standards and directives for the elevator industry.

>>> The report and tables are available for download on the EFESME website.

The items monitored are the Lifts Directive 2014/33/EU and Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC, as well as the standards EN 81-20, EN 81-21, EN 81-28, EN 81-50, EN 81-70, EN 81-72, EN 81-73, and EN 81-77.

This monitoring activity is part of the SBS Sectoral Approach, and its rationale is to make available to SMEs a comprehensive overview of their status in both the EU and the EFTA countries, including information about their transposition, translation, and implementation.

The tables and reports were updated thanks to the input received by the EFESME’s members, located in fourteen countries, as well as by the National Standardisation Bodies (NSBs) in EU and EFTA countries, by the Permanent Representations to the European Union (PermRep) and the national Chambers of Commerce of the Member States of the EU and EFTA.