

FEM

Newsletter

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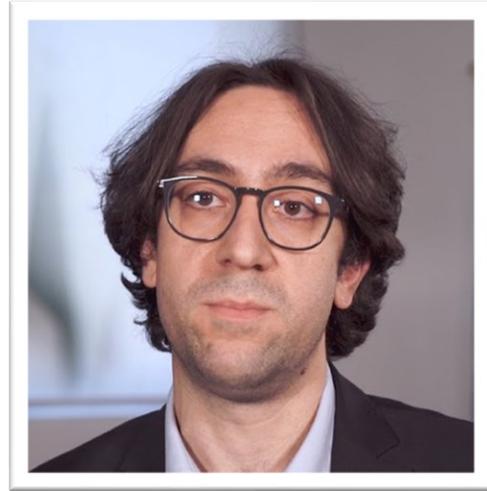


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FEM News

CHANGES IN FEM BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Further to Maurizio Tansini's resignation, Rodolfo Occari (Toyota Materials Handling Europe) was elected in the FEM Board of Director as representative of the Italian member organisation AISEM.

Moreover, since Maurizio also held the position of Vice-President, the role has to be reassigned. Christophe Lautray (KION, PGIT representative in the Board), was nominated Vice-President. He will thus seek a second mandate as President of FEM at the next Congress in September.

NRSEA NO LONGER MEMBER OF FEM

Further to a unanimous decision from the General Assembly on 23rd March 2022, NRSEA (Russia) is no longer member of FEM. The decision to terminate membership was taken in application of article 6 of FEM statutes, further to NRSEA's prolonged lack of payment of its annual subscription and the complete loss of communication.

ANDREA PASQUINI TO STEP DOWN AS PG MEWPs SECRETARY

Further to his resignation from ANIMA/AISEM (Italy), Andrea Pasquini is stepping down as PG MEWPs Secretary. He is replaced by Federico Lucarelli, also from ANIMA/AISEM.



Luisa Parisotto
Senior Regulatory and Compliance Manager
at Genie/Terex AWP

“The materials handling industry can offer many opportunities to women with a technical background. It encompasses several different roles from design engineering to quality, logistics and sales to supply chain and service, which are not typically considered by women for their career. The complexity of this sector can help in getting experience which will be valuable also outside of this industry.”



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY

To shine a spotlight on women in the #materials handling industry on the occasion of the 2022 IWD, we shared the story of Luisa Parisotto (GENIE) highlighting her unique expertise and what she brings to our sector!

<https://bit.ly/3hPct81>

INDUSTRY LEADERS CAMPAIGN

In 2021, FEM launched a series of interviews with materials handling industry leaders, starting with [Jos De Vuyst](#) (STOW) and [Gordon Riske](#) (KION). This year we continue our series with a portrait of [Pierre Marol](#), President of Alstef Group.




“The pandemic has increased the need to find meaning in one's work.”

Automation and robotisation restore value into their work by increasing the responsibility of operators (supervision, follow-up on faults, interfacing with modern tools, etc.), while eliminating painful tasks with low added value.

Pierre Marol, Alstef Group President

Task Forces Activities

MACHINERY DIRECTIVE

Since the beginning of 2022, the FEM Machinery Task Force (TF) has continued to be very active on the Machinery Regulation proposal. Following two TF meetings in January and March, FEM submitted its feedback on the Council draft compromise proposal and also on the European Parliament's draft compromise amendments. Prior to these activities, FEM also shared its opinion on the [amendments](#) tabled in November by MEPs of the Internal Market Committee (IMCO). This contribution was resent in January 2022 to the key players in the European Parliament on this dossier: the rapporteur, Ivan Štefanec (EPP, Slovakia), and the shadow rapporteurs from the other political groups.

FEM has been mostly positive about the [ten draft compromise amendments](#) put together by the IMCO Rapporteur (Ivan Štefanec (EPP, Slovakia)), but raised major concerns about the inclusion of three new machinery categories (amongst which also cranes with a load moment >150 kNm) in Annex I (list of high-risk machinery). The FEM Secretariat and the Product Group Cranes and Lifting Equipment are in regular contact with the office of the Rapporteur and one of the shadow rapporteurs that has been supportive of FEM's comments to address this matter before the conclusion of the compromise amendments in early April. The vote on the IMCO amendments and compromise amendments is scheduled to take place on 20th or 21st April. Ahead of the vote, FEM will be drawing up voting recommendations which will be widely disseminated to the IMCO members.

With regard to the Council, the Working Party on Technical Harmonisation, chaired by the current French Presidency, continues to have meetings at the end of March and until 11 April to examine the current compromise proposal and forge a final compromise by the end of April. Should both the Council and the European Parliament finalise their positions by the end of April, the two institutions are likely to start the inter-institutional negotiations ('trialogues') as of May 2022.

OUTDOOR NOISE

The revision of the Outdoor Noise Directive has been going at full speed since the beginning of 2022. The Commission confirmed that they will be following a two-step approach: first, the revision of the Annex III of the Directive, which deals with measurement standards, through a Delegated Act; then revising the full Directive in a second time. The Commission released the first draft of the revised Annex III of the Directive in early February, which was generally positively welcomed by the FEM TF Noise. After the first draft was made available, the Task Force had a meeting, during which comments on the text were raised and written feedback was collected.

The input from the Task Force was then sent to the Commission, and further expressed during the first meeting of the European Commission Noise Expert Group, on 17 February. The FEM feedback focused on changes that were present in the draft delegated act regarding measurement standards for five equipment categories: MEWPs; construction winches; lift trucks; mobile cranes and tower cranes.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be set up once the second version of the Delegated Act is made public by the Commission. The same procedure for feedback will be set up, allowing FEM to report its position during the second Noise Expert Group meeting, which will take place on 11 May. A final draft of the Delegated Act will be published in June and discussed at a third Expert Group meeting on 30 June.

The Commission also announced a public consultation in the autumn 2022, and another Expert Group meeting on 13 October. After that, the text will pass to the Parliament and Council for scrutiny in Q4 2022/Q1 2023. The publication of the Delegated Act is planned for Q1 2023. Application will probably follow in 2023, although the transitional period is still to be discussed.

DIGITALISATION

Artificial Intelligence Act

The Digitisation Task Force has been working on the [European Commission proposal on the Artificial Intelligence Act](#). In January, meetings were held by the Secretariat with the assistant of the Co-Rapporteur Mr. Dragoş Tudorache and the assistant of Shadow Rapporteur Ms. Deirdre Clune, during which the FEM position paper on the AI Act proposal was presented and discussed. Further in the month of January, activities in the FEM Digitisation Task Force started with the aim of drafting another FEM position paper, containing ten proposed amendments to the AI Act proposal. The position paper was finalised and sent to the previously met assistants of MEPs at the end of January. More recently, the position paper was also sent to Ms. Eva Maydell, Rapporteur in the ITRE Committee.

The FEM Digitisation Task Force is currently analysing and providing comments to the amendments proposed by the Council and Parliament, which have been published in the past months. These include the draft opinions from the [ENVI](#), [CULT](#), [ITRE](#) and [JURI](#) Committees in the Parliament, and the partial amendments published by the French Presidency in the Council (documents available from the Orgalim Partnership).

The FEM Digitisation also collected a few examples of use-cases of AI applications in support of the FEM proposed amendments.

The Secretariat is currently closely monitoring developments on the file and awaiting the joint-draft of the two responsible committees in the Parliament (IMCO-LIBE), which is planned to be published on 11 April.

Data Act

The European Commission published the [proposal for a Data Act](#) on 23 February. The FEM Task Force Digitisation started an introductory discussion on the file during a meeting held in mid-March.

The FEM Secretariat is currently collecting the first round of written comments on the text, together with feedback on the FEM priority issues proposed by the Secretariat. These are suggestions on which aspects of the proposal FEM should be actively involved in, and in which others FEM will support the Orgalim's advocacy activities. The FEM Secretariat is also monitoring developments on the file, and awaiting for the appointment of Rapporteurs and Shadow Rapporteurs, as well as information on the timeline.

A new FEM Digitisation Task Force meeting is planned for 19 April, during which the first steps to drafting a FEM position paper on the Data Act will be established. FEM aims at responding to the [European Commission written feedback consultation](#) call with the FEM position paper, which should be finalised by 13 May.

BATTERIES

In the last months, the revision process of the Battery Directive – to become a Regulation – keeps FEM and its TF Battery busy. As a reminder, at the end of 2020, the European Commission published its [proposal for a new Regulation on batteries and waste batteries](#), which will be replacing and repealing the current Batteries Directive (2006/66/EC). Through this new regulation, the European Commission aims that all batteries placed on the EU market become sustainable, high-performing and safe all along their entire life cycle. According to the proposal, the materials handling industry will be highly impacted since many new information and sustainability requirements will apply to industrial batteries – the relevant category for materials handling equipment.

Since the beginning of 2022, the FEM Task Force Battery has continued to closely follow the legislative process in the Council and European Parliament. In addition, FEM submitted recommendations about amendments to influence discussions and drafting of compromise amendments.



The European Parliament voted on 10 March and backed the new rules on sustainable and responsibly-sourced batteries with 584 votes in favour, 67 against and 40 abstentions. During the [debate](#), MEPs underlined the crucial role that batteries have in the transition to a circular and climate-neutral economy and for the EU's competitiveness and strategic autonomy. The [adopted position](#) proposed stronger requirements on sustainability, performance and labelling, including rules on a carbon footprint declaration and label. Moreover, industry should ensure that the battery value chain complies fully with human rights and due diligence obligations, thus addressing risks around the sourcing, processing and trading of raw materials, which are often concentrated in one or a few countries. The report also sets minimum levels of recovered cobalt, lead, lithium and nickel from waste for reuse in new batteries.

The Council adopted a [general approach](#) on 17 March. The Council negotiating position keeps and strengthens the fundamentals of the Commission's original proposal, including the "battery passport", tight restrictions for hazardous substances, a carbon footprint for batteries, extended producer responsibility and the obligation for new batteries to contain recycled materials and due diligence requirements for supply chains.

FEM is now working on analysing the positions adopted by the [European Parliament](#) and the [Council](#).

The delay in the decision process will also postpone the finalisation of the future regulation, which is now expected for Q4 2022.

EU Legislative Issues

General Issues

MARKET SURVEILLANCE/NEW LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

In the framework of the study supporting the evaluation of the New Legislative Framework (NLF), CSES (Centre for Strategy and Evaluation Services) organised a stakeholder workshop on 9 March. The purpose was to present and discuss the findings of the evaluation with representatives of all relevant stakeholder groups. By and large, there is general consensus that the NLF has had a positive impact and remains fit for purpose taking into account all the evaluation criteria (effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, EU added value). Overall, the industry was the most positive about the NLF impacts, while consumer associations were somewhat positive, but with some reservations that the NLF may lose some of its added value unless it is updated to reflect recent trends and developments such as digitalisation, circular economy, product modifications etc. Additionally, some split views have also been identified on whether changes that may be required are to be brought in an update of the NLF model provisions as such, or in separate product legislation.

CSES is currently working on finalising the evaluation study report which is intended to be submitted to the Commission at the end of March. If the Commission decides in the future to launch an impact assessment study on the NLF review, they will take into consideration the conclusions of the CSES study.

STANDARDISATION POLICY

The EU Standardisation Strategy was published by the Commission on 2 February, as a package of different initiatives consisting of: [A policy communication](#); [A proposal for a targeted amendment of Regulation 1025/2012](#); [A report on the implementation of the same Regulation](#); and [The Annual Union Work Program for European Standardisation](#).

The new Strategy intends to align standardisation with EU's policy priorities and strategic interests. This includes prioritising standardisation needs in key strategic areas, which would entail both the fast adoption of standards in urgent areas (critical raw materials, hydrogen, chips certification, data standards), and also the revision of existing standards to reflect the green and digital transition. At the same time, it is announced that a High-Level Forum will be set up to assist the Commission in anticipating future standardisation priorities, advising on standardisation needs and engaging with the European Parliament and Council to ensure political coordination on these priorities.



A Chief Standardisation Officer will also be established to steer the work of an EU excellence hub on standards and ensure Commission's oversight on the alignment of standardisation activities with EU policy objectives.

The Strategy also refers to the existing work started by the Commission and European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) to improve the current standardisation system, with the aim of accelerating every step in the process of standards' development.

To improve the governance of the European standardisation system, a proposal for a targeted amendment to the Article 10 of Regulation 1025/2012 is also included. The amendment aims at strengthening the governance of ESOs, notably to ensure that key decisions are taken by national standardisation bodies from the EU and the European Economic Area (EEA).

In addition, the ESOs are asked to come up with a plan by the end of 2022 to modernise their governance to improve inclusiveness, particularly of SMEs and civil society organisations.

The Strategy also announces other actions such as the launch of the evaluation of Standardisation Regulation 1025/2012 (foreseen in Q3-Q4 2022) and the development of a horizontal approach to the development of technical or common specifications through implementing acts under sectoral legislation.

Another dimension of the Strategy is related to the goal of boosting EU's global leadership on standardisation. The Strategy foresees a number of soft measures to:

- improve coordination among Member States on international standardisation matters
- continue existing commitments on standardisation in EU trade agreements and use of dialogues and digital partnerships to cooperate with like-minded partners
- improve cooperation with international partners

Publications and Events

FEM CO-SIGNS A JOINT STATEMENT ON EU TRADE AGREEMENTS



On 7 March, FEM, together with 24 European associations, co-signed a Joint Industry Statement on EU Trade agreements, urging the EU institutions to continue making EU trade agreements a priority, opening new markets for trade and investment and promoting rules-based free trade, including strengthening the role of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

<https://bit.ly/3MXLm95>

FEM MANIFESTO : SUPPORTING OUR INDUSTRY'S DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Complementary of the FEM Strategic Vision 2020-2025, the Manifesto outlines technological and market trends, and sets out the requirements for a supportive regulatory and R&D framework. Together, these will create the right conditions for our companies to further develop their global competitiveness and employment.

Check it out <https://bit.ly/3ucBscQ>

FEM PG CRANES & LIFTING EQUIPMENTS WELCOMES NEW ISO/TS 23624:2021

FEM welcomes and supports the publication of the ISO technical specification on Safe use of high-performance fibre ropes in crane applications ([ISO/TS 23624:2021](https://www.iso.org/standard/72421.html)).

This new technical specification provides guidance for the safe use of high-performance fibre ropes (HPFR) in crane applications including winch applications. In response, the FEM Product Group Cranes and Lifting Equipment withdraws its guideline 5.024 Safe Use of High-Performance Synthetic Fibre Ropes on Mobile Cranes.

Check it out [👉 https://bit.ly/3wpmnG2](https://bit.ly/3wpmnG2)

FEM AT IFOY TEST DAYS AND AWARD 2022

On 22-23 March, FEM held its spring meetings in Dortmund at the occasion of the [2022 IFOY Awards](#).



During the event, 14 devices and solutions from 12 manufacturers made it to the final round of the tenth round of the competition. The finalists cover the entire spectrum of in-plant logistics - from forklifts to autonomous mobile robots (AMR) and software to holistic automation projects for high-performance warehouses. 25 jury members from 19 countries casted their votes. The result, however, remains secret - for the public and the manufacturers - until the IFOY AWARD Night on June 30 at BMW Welt in Munich

ORGALIM SUMMER GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[Registrations](#) are now open for the Orgalim Summer General Assembly (GA), which will take place in Stockholm, Sweden on 14-15 June 2022 at the kind invitation of their Swedish member association, Teknikföretagen. After more than two years of pandemic, they are delighted to be meeting in person again and have put together an exceptional agenda for the occasion.

Check the [conference programme](#) for additional details.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS RESERVED

TO FEM MEMBERS

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