

FEM

Newsletter

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FEM News

FEM 2024-2025 CALENDAR

Make sure you already mark your calendar!

23-24 April 2024
in Brussels

23 April

19:30 FEM members Dinner (Le Jardin du Sommelier)

24 April

08.30 – 10.00 Board meeting (Board members only)

08.30 – 10.00 PG exchange session (PG Secretaries)

10.00 – 10.30 General Assembly

10.45 – 13.00 Executive Committee

13.00 – 14.00 Light lunch

26-27 September 2024
in Istanbul

FEM Congress, organised by ISDER

Location: Hilton Kozyatağı Istanbul Hotel

More information soon

17-18 March 2025
in Brussels

17 March: FEM members Dinner

18 March: BO-PG-EC-GA meetings and light lunch

NEW AIV GROUP

Have you checked out our new group on Autonomous Intralogistic Vehicles?

FEM AIV group

Your European platform on
Autonomous Intralogistic Vehicles



European
materials
handling
federation



With AIV business increasing at a rapid pace, we aim to establish the largest European platform for AIV manufacturers to engage in technical cooperation and information exchange! A dozen manufacturers from 8 countries have already signed up. Join them [HERE](#)

NEW FEM FOR CORPORATE PACKAGE

Grow your network, influence, and visibility with

FEM for Corporates

We offer:

- 1 A unique network for manufacturers to connect & collaborate
- 2 Valuable policy and advocacy insights & influence on the EU agenda
- 3 Engagement with EU officials and networking opportunities
- 4 Exposure and visibility on FEM's channels

Want to join this exclusive network? Get in touch!

Through collaboration and proactive engagement with the EU policymaking process, you can strengthen your position for the future.



5 companies have signed up to our FEM Corporates programme. Join them [HERE](#)

NEW FEM WEBSITE

This year, FEM aims to launch a new website, showcasing our association in a more modern and innovative light that fits with our industry.

The project has started and will include an update of FEM's visual identity. The launch is foreseen after the summer.



Task Forces Activities

BATTERIES

Batteries and Waste Batteries Regulation

The [Batteries and Waste Batteries Regulation](#) was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 12 July 2023. It is directly applicable to all Member States as of 18 February 2024.

The Regulation applies to a wide scope of battery types, including rechargeable industrial batteries, with and without external storage, with a capacity greater than 2 kWh. Amongst others, it sets out binding requirements on items concerning recycling targets, carbon footprint declaration rules and performance classes, labelling and marketing, restrictions of substances, and specific reporting and due diligence rules, such as the so-called “battery passport”.

To FEM Battery Task Force, the implementation of the Regulation remains the key priority. The Task Force is currently involved in the context of the development of secondary legislation by engaging in the earliest stages of stakeholders’ consultations.

On 12 December, FEM joined the workshop organised by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC) on the implementation of carbon footprint rules for industrial batteries, namely the Implementing Act establishing the format of the carbon footprint declaration as well as the Delegated Act on the calculation of the carbon footprint for rechargeable industrial batteries. Likewise, on 22 February FEM participated in JRC’s workshop in support of the Delegated Act for performance and durability minimum requirements for rechargeable industrial batteries. FEM submitted feedback for consideration by the European Commission as a follow-up to both workshops, duly received. FEM members are being equally informed on the future developments regarding the publication of the draft acts and respective consultations.

FEM is additionally being active on the opportunities for stakeholders’ participation promoted by the research projects of Ramboll institute on behalf of the European Commission, such as the preparatory work for the Implementing Act on harmonised labelling and marking requirements for batteries. FEM joined the workshop on this topic on 21 February and is monitoring the next steps in view of the release of the final report by Ramboll and the call for comments on the draft act.

For further information about the activities of the FEM Battery Task Force, please contact [Silvia Alessi](#).

DIGITALISATION

Data Act guidance document

While the Digitisation TF continues to monitor legislative developments related to the Cyber Resilience Act and Artificial Intelligence Act, important steps have been taken to establish an FEM group that will work on a guidance document to support FEM manufacturers on the implementation of the Data Act. The group is made up of several experts and will have the first kick-off meeting on 16 April.

FEM will contribute to the work of Orgalim in their respective guidelines and simultaneously address aspects of specific relevance to the materials handling industry in the FEM guidance document.

More details will be shared with the Task Force members in the next weeks.

MACHINERY DIRECTIVE

The European Commission announced in the last Expert Group meeting on 9 November 2023 that the work on the updated guidelines for the Machinery Regulation will start in the summer of 2024. The Commission is currently prioritising the completion of the Standardisation Request (which is due in the first half of 2024) and the template for accidents' data addressed to Member States which is intended to be adopted by July 2024. On the citation of harmonised standards under the Machinery Directive and the Machinery Regulation, the Commission indicated that the first list under the Machinery Regulation is intended to be adopted by June 2026. The next Machinery Expert Group meeting will take place on 12 April. In preparation for this meeting, the FEM Machinery Task Force will hold an online meeting on 3 April.

NOISE

The FEM TF noise kept a close watch on the legislative developments on the Annex III of the Outdoor Noise Directive in the past months. The corrigendum to the Delegated Act, which fixed the incorrect transitional period shown in the text approved in November 2023, was shared by the European Commission on 19 February.

The TF is now looking forward to the official release of the Delegated Act, which is expected for 19 April, after the European Parliament and Council review.

ROAD CIRCULATION

The TF Road Circulation has been busy with monitoring the institutional developments on the proposal for a regulation on the road circulation of non-road mobile machinery, analysing the text agreed by the co-legislators in trilogues.

Simultaneously, FEM has been participating in the formulation of technical requirements, which are set to be defined in a Delegated Act. These requirements are currently being handled by independent contractors hired by the European Commission. In October, FEM provided its input on the initial draft of these technical requirements prepared by the contractors. We continue to be in close contact with the contractors and we are currently awaiting their next draft.

The FEM Secretariat remains committed to closely monitoring developments in this matter.

EU Legislative Issues

CHEMICALS POLICY - PFAS

ECHA's restriction proposal of PFAS substances

FEM PFAS Working Group continues to actively follow the developments of ECHA's [restriction proposal](#) on the use, production, and marketing of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), for which the group was established *ad hoc* under the Technical and Regulatory Committee.

As ECHA's [press release](#) from 13 March reads, the five national authorities who submitted the restriction proposal (Germany, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden) are updating their original report to address the comments from stakeholders. According to the [minutes](#) of ECHA's plenary meetings from 11 to 14 March, the scientific Committees discussed scope and hazards. In light of the results from the consultation, the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) considers that the current grouping approach of substances underpinning the scope of the restriction is not sufficiently justified. In addition, the Committees provisionally agreed that there is limited evidence on the toxicity of polymeric PFAS, whereas the risks related to the release into the environment of non-polymeric PFAS (especially those from high-molecular weight fluoropolymers) need to be further assessed considering the specific uses and the whole life cycle. This includes a special emphasis on fluoropolymer manufacturing and waste-stage.

ECHA also set out a tentative calendar for the sectors affected by the potential restriction that will be discussed in the forthcoming meetings in July and September. The tentative agenda includes metal plating and manufacture of metal products in July, and three different sectors to be covered in

September meetings: textiles, upholstery, leather, apparel, carpets (TULAC); food contact materials and packaging; and petroleum and mining.

FEM will continue to monitor closely the evolution of the decision-making process on the proposed ban on PFAS and can consider taking action whether necessary.

For further information about the activities of FEM PFAS Working Group, please contact [Silvia Alessi](#).

COMPETITION – INVESTIGATION INTO CHINESE PLATFORM MANUFACTURERS

The European Commission has opened an [anti-dumping investigation](#) on imports of mobile access equipment (MAE) originating from China. The investigation, triggered by a complaint from a coalition, concerns mobile access equipment designed for the lifting of persons, self-propelled, with a maximum working height of 6 meters or more.

The complainant claimed that it is not appropriate to use domestic prices and costs in China, due to the existence of significant distortions, and pointed to the State funding benefiting the Chinese MAE industries and the fact that there is a substantial degree of State ownership in the Chinese MAE sector. It is also alleged that there may be raw material distortions, notably on hot-rolled steel.

The investigation, which will cover the period from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023, will determine whether the product under investigation originating in the country concerned is being dumped and whether the dumped imports have caused injury to the Union industry. If that is the conclusion reached, anti-dumping duties may be applied.

The investigation will last 13 to 14 months. Provisional measures may be imposed within 7 to 8 months.

STANDARDISATION POLICY

On 2 February, the European Commission published its [Annual Union Work Programme on European Standardisation](#) (AUWP) 2024 setting out its priorities in standardisation-related activities. This document includes 72 actions, eight of which are identified as policy priorities; notably, standards for activities on quantum, critical raw materials, the data economy, digital identity, heat pumps, cybersecurity, hydrogen and electric vehicles charging infrastructure.

RADIO EQUIPMENT DIRECTIVE

The second meeting of the group dealing with the revision of the RED Guide, coordinated by the AdCO RED Chair, took place on 8 February. The meeting focused on the preliminary input of stakeholders concerning possible changes to the RED Guide. Most stakeholder comments tabled were editorial updates to references of the Blue Guide as well as other guidance documents and directives/regulations. Other comments simply called for further clarification. In summary, the main points of discussion were the following:

- The group will work on clarifications regarding the use of harmonised standards with restrictions. The aim is that it should be up to the manufacturer to make a first assessment if the restriction affects the radio product; i.e. no need to contact a Notified Body.
- The requirement to have the CE-mark visible was discussed. Today there is some guidance on having CE-marking under a battery, which will be further worked on. The outcome may be different if the product is provided to the customer with the battery in the product or with the battery separately.
- There was also a discussion regarding risk assessment and technical file updates.

The next meeting of the RED Guide revision group is scheduled for the end of April (26 April, tentatively).

Publications and Events

FEM CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On 8 March, as a special opportunity to shine the spotlight on women working in the materials handling industry, highlighting unique experiences and expertise, and what led them on this career path, FEM shared the story of Roberta Togni, General Counsel & CSR Officer of Automha S.p.A, and FEM ISPG Board Member, highlighting her key role and motivation in shaping our industry!



It is important for women to follow their passions without being influenced by cultural biases that still see them tied to certain roles. In our company, the collaboration between male and female technical figures has often led to surprising results, as issues have been approached from different perspectives, with different, but complementary, creative methods and styles.



Roberta Togni
General Counsel & CSR Officer of
Automha S.p.A, and Board Member of FEM

👉 You can read the [full interview HERE](#) on FEM website.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS RESERVED

TO FEM MEMBERS

FOR ANY ENQUIRY, PLEASE CONTACT:

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