



**European Federation of Materials Handling**  
**Press Release**

**A new tool for machinery**

**FEM welcomes the adoption of European Commission's guidelines on the new Machinery Directive**

Brussels, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009

FEM representing European manufacturers of materials handling, lifting and storage equipment, welcomes the publication of the first edition guidelines on the application of the new Machinery Directive 2006/42/EC. This Directive, due to enter into force at the end of the year, is important to the European materials handling industry and in particular product groups Cranes & Lifting Equipment, Elevating Equipment, Industrial Trucks and Mobile Elevated Work Platforms. The guidelines will thus provide a useful tool to assist companies and others in their efforts to understand and comply with the Directive's requirements.

FEM has significantly contributed to the development of the first edition guidelines that cover the preamble, Articles and Annexes I & II, and is grateful for the invitation from the European Commission Machinery Guidance Working Group to assist them in their work. Through this process, consensus has been reached and guidance developed, in particular on Annex I, which defines the essential health and safety requirements on issues such as fixed guards, lifting of people and risks linked to the mobility of machinery. During this process, stretched over 3 years, FEM experts attended some 16 working group meetings at European Commission's level and numerous other meetings at industry level. FEM President, Mr. Philippe Frantz said: *"FEM can be proud of the results achieved by its experts, who have shown a high level of commitment. I am also personally very satisfied with the positive collaboration we have enjoyed with the European Commission, our colleagues of Orgalime and other sectoral organisations like FEM. These guidelines are a successful example of a well-coordinated work from the industry and constructive cooperation with the European Commission."*

The European materials handling industry is committed to full compliance with the Directive's requirements and expects just the same from any competing product or equipment on the European market. As Mr. Frantz pointed out, *"our companies are ready to play the game. The minimum they expect in return is that national authorities maintain a level playing field by ensuring efficient market surveillance in order to combat the proliferation of non-compliant equipments that pose serious safety threats and hinder European companies' competitiveness"*.

Concerning the future, FEM is committed to assisting the European Commission with the remaining guidelines on Annexes III to XI and in providing advice wherever necessary and on future revisions.

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*Founded in 1953, FEM is the voice of the European manufacturers of materials handling, lifting and storage equipment. Today, FEM defends the interests of 16 members, thus representing some 1,000 companies (around 80% of the European materials handling industry in value) employing 160,000 people.*