

# History

Under the patronage of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), a study group of 18 industrialists from 11 Western European countries travelled to the USA in 1951 to gain a personal insight into rational handling/transportation techniques. This led to the realisation that increased cooperation among European manufacturers of material handling equipment was necessary.

**1953-1977** FEM was founded in 1953 in Paris with 6 members – Austria, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, UK and Italy. In 1954, Finland, Sweden and Spain joined, thereafter followed by other national associations. Due to the wide range of products used in the material handling industry, work was initially divided into 8 Sections. The distribution of work between FEM Sections changed over the years and in 1970 a new Section was created for storage equipment and methods.

**1977-2001** The General Secretariat was established in 1977 in Zurich and moved to Brussels in 2001, in order to bring FEM closer to the European decision-making institutions and stakeholders.



FEM currently has 13 National Committees as members in the EU, Switzerland and Turkey, and is one of the largest sectors within the EU mechanical engineering sector.

A new structure with Product Groups has been established to replace former Sections, in order to better reflect the current technical and economic environment of FEM members.

Material handling equipment is becoming more automated and integrated into complete systems. In addition to mechatronic products, special attention is given to system controls, information processing and telecommunication.

For the FEM client industries, the choice of material handling technology is the key to improved customer services, revenue growth and profitability.

Active participation in FEM offers great advantages to companies who can discuss with experts from other countries, create valuable personal relations, identify mutual interests and stimulate creative work. New trends can be identified at an early stage and taken into account in R&D. Finally, it is important to have knowledge of one's competitors in order to properly assess one's own performance and perhaps find new forms of cooperation.



# Organisation

**The Product Groups** are the working bodies of FEM. They cover the wide range of products manufactured by the sector. They draft and publish technical documents, follow marketing trends and serve as industry meeting points. FEM Product Groups currently represent the following types of products:

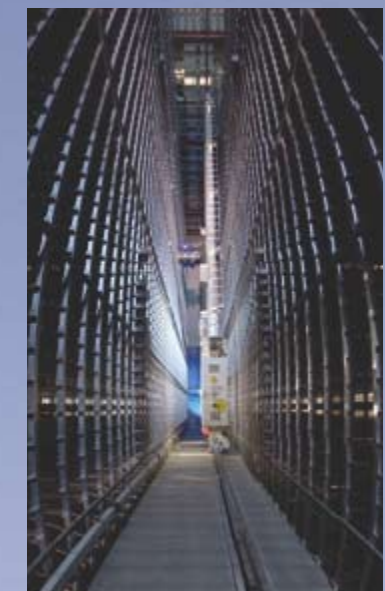
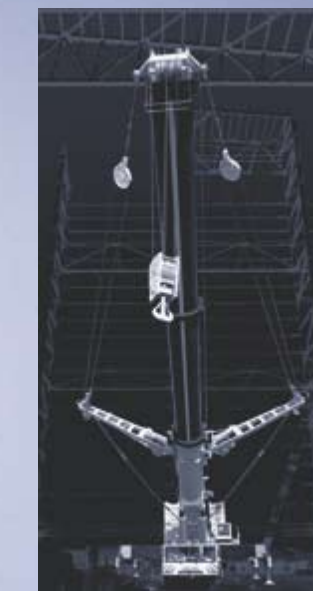
- Conveyors for Bulk Materials
- Cranes and Lifting Equipment
- Elevating Equipment
- Industrial Trucks
- Intralogistic Systems
- Mobile Elevating Work Platforms
- Racking and Shelving

**The General Assembly** is the supreme governing body of FEM deciding on its objectives and general policy. In even years, the FEM General Assembly is held in conjunction with the biennial FEM Congress. As the FEM Product Groups also hold their plenary meetings at the FEM Congress, this event has become a focal point for industry executives.

**The Board**, composed of industry executives, formulates the FEM vision and policy, and represents the European industry at trade fairs and government level worldwide. The Board also supervises the activities of the Executive Committee and the General Secretariat.

**The Executive Committee**, composed of executives from the National Committees and Product Groups, meets on a regular basis to discuss technical and legislative issues. The Executive Committee also discusses industry positions relating to European legislation.

FEM members and Product Groups also meet in thematic task forces and working groups to discuss matters directly affecting their industries, prepare positions on proposed European legislation and give guidance to manufacturers on existing European legislation.





# Mission

**FEM is the European manufacturers' association of materials handling, lifting and storage equipment.**

**FEM's mission is to represent the technical, economic and political interests of one of the largest industrial sectors of the European mechanical engineering industry.**

**FEM is an umbrella organisation and has the following objectives:**

- encouraging technical progress, safety at work, sustainable development and energy efficiency in the field of material handling
- proactively developing technical standards at international and European levels
- providing implementation guidance on European legislation applicable to its industry
- safeguarding the interests of the industry, particularly competitiveness and innovation
- communicating with European institutions and stakeholders and advising them on material handling questions
- promoting and encouraging cooperation among the manufacturers of material handling equipment in Europe and worldwide.

**FEM technical publications such as design rules, terminology, graphical symbols and calculation principles are also widely used outside Europe and many of them have served as the basis for ISO and CEN standards.**

# Members

## Belgium

AGORIA  
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## Finland

The Federation of Finnish  
Technology Industries  
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## France

CISMA  
39-41 rue Louis Blanc  
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## Germany

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Fachverband Fördertechnik und  
Logistiksysteme  
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DE - 60528 FRANKFURT/NIEDERRAD  
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## Italy

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## Luxembourg

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## Sweden

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## Switzerland

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## Turkey

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## United Kingdom

BMHF  
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## Associate Member

PEMA  
Port Equipment Manufacturers  
Association  
www.pema.org

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EUROPAISCHER VERBAND FÜR FÖRDERTECHNIK – FEDERAZIONE EUROPEA DELLA MOVIMENTAZIONE E DEL SOLLEVAMENTO



Products on the move

