



European Materials Handling Federation

FEM Press Release

John Meale becomes President of FEM

Brussels, 11th October 2010

On 2nd October 2010, FEM members gathered at the 33rd FEM Congress in Istanbul and unanimously elected John Meale as President for the period 2010-2012. Jan van der Velden, President of FEM Product Group Intralogistic Systems, was elected Vice-President of FEM. Philippe Frantz became Past President.

In his closing speech, Mr. Frantz said: *"I started as President of growth, continued as President of crisis and now leave as President of recovery. I am certain John, who has always shown a great deal of enthusiasm and dynamism, will further develop our association and raise its profile."*

John Meale, 66 and married with 2 children, is CEO of the British company Thorworld, which manufactures elevating equipment (dock levellers, modular docks and various other safety equipment for the loading and unloading areas). John has been active in FEM for many years, holding the Presidency of the Product Group Elevating Equipment and more recently the Vice-Presidency of FEM.

In his introductory speech to the GA, John assured that he would *"do everything in [his] power to serve FEM to the best of [his] abilities"*. Speaking about FEM priorities, he stressed that *"as a Federation, we are totally committed to improvements in quality standards, safety and energy efficiency for all our products"* and called for effective market surveillance for all materials handling products entering and circulating in the EU. *"If this is not done, then it is not only the profits of our companies which will suffer but the mere existence of our companies and the people they employ"*. Mr. Meale also mentioned the problem posed by the volatility and fluctuation of raw material costs, and in particular steel.

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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 17 members, thus representing some 1,000 companies (around 80% of the European materials handling industry in value) employing 160,000 people.