



PRESS INFORMATION

CeMAT - Hanover, 29 May 2008

EU Materials Handling Companies CEOs discuss Economic Perspectives at FEM Breakfast

On 29 May, around 50 CEOs from large and smaller European companies in the materials handling, lifting and storage equipment sectors, and exhibiting at CeMAT 2008, met for a CEO breakfast organised by FEM – the Federation of European Materials Handling – to discuss the business climate and economic outlook for the Mechanical Engineering industry at large, and for the Materials Handling sector in particular.

Dr. Ralph Wiechers, Chief Economist and Managing Director for Taxes at VDMA, the German National member of FEM, gave a presentation on the “Structure, Trends and Perspectives in the EU Mechanical Engineering Industry” followed by a lively discussion with the participants. Organised in cooperation with Deutsche Messe AG, the CEO breakfast has now become a traditional event where old, new, and potential members of the FEM community meet at each CeMAT exhibition.

FEM President, Mr Ambrogio Bollini, said “with half of its exhibitors for this year's CeMAT exhibition coming from all over Europe and worldwide, all the major market players in all product categories are here, and FEM has to be present and speak its message loud and clear: we want a competitive and growing European industry. CeMAT is certainly one of the most important worldwide events for European companies to exhibit their latest technologies and propose more innovative solutions each time. There is vivid and tangible competition at the fair, but it is also the ideal time for our FEM member companies to sit down together and see how they can drive the business for the 10-20 years to come, and face challenges such as energy efficiency and climate change. It is also a unique occasion to meet our international counterparts and promote our know-how.”

“CeMAT 2008 is a clear success, and gives priority to the right trends in technology: software solutions for efficient integration along the entire logistics chain, energy efficiency and sustainability. As an example, companies in the industrial trucks sector exhibit economical hybrid drives, low-emission engines, low-maintenance and reduced-wear technology... Moreover, FEM is pleased to see that port handling technology is one of the new display themes at this year's CeMAT, completing the range of products covered by the Materials Handling industry, and opening a new window of opportunities for our associate member PEMA – The European Port Equipment Manufacturers Association.”

FEM has been representing European manufacturers of materials handling, lifting and storage equipment since it was founded in 1953. FEM is a non-profit trade association (AISBL under Belgian law) permanently based in Brussels to better represent its members and their interests vis-à-vis the European institutions and European partners. FEM currently has 13 National Committees as members in the EU, Switzerland and Turkey, and in 2006^[1], the production value of FEM members exceeded €50.6 billion.

^[1] Source: Statistical Database on the EU Mechanical Engineering Industry compiled by GzF/VDMA as part of the study commissioned by the European Community

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