

EFIBCA elects Roelof Veld as new EFIBCA President and hosts its Fifth Open Meeting in Barcelona



Bad Homburg, 23 October 2015 – Roelof Veld of NNZ b.v. was elected as president of the European Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container Association (EFIBCA) at the Annual General Meeting on 29 September 2015 in Barcelona, Spain. As Business Unit Manager, Industry at NNZ b.v., a Dutch company specializing in agricultural and industrial packaging solutions, Veld draws on 18 years of experience in the FIBC sector from which the Association has already profited during his 8-year tenure on EFIBCA’s Executive Council.

Mr Veld succeeds Oliver Grüters, Boxon GmbH, who reached the maximum two consecutive terms as EFIBCA President and continues to serve on the EFIBCA Council. “Roelof has been a making an impact in the Council for years, and I am very pleased that we have elected such an experienced and competent candidate,” says Grüters, under whose leadership the association’s membership grew by nearly 30 percent.

Following the Annual General Meeting and elections, guests joined the new president and members for a tour of Barcelona and networking dinner at a rustic Catalan venue. The 60 delegates from Europe, Near and Far East and Africa capitalized on the opportunity for further exchange and discussion on current business aspects affecting the FIBC community at EFIBCA’s fifth Open Meeting the next day. On the agenda were presentations on markets, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, quality and safety.

Attendees followed Nandita Lal’s (Platts) presentation with great interest as she illustrated how the “perfect storm” on the raw materials market developed, leading to the 2015 price shocks for polymers like polypropylene, the material from which FIBC are woven. On the other end of the spectrum, the presentation on Plastic Waste Recycling in Practice by Markus Dambeck (RIGK) generated keen interest as he reported on the process of and opportunities for recycling FIBC. “Our aim was to get a good mix of speakers to inform delegates about developments in the market and regulations but also to hear about practical application from experts in the field,” explains conference organizer, Allison Bouchat of EFIBCA.

Other topics included the complex quality and safety regulations governing FIBC, and how to leverage quality programmes like EFIBCA-Q and declarations of compliance. Social Compliance in the Supply Chain was treated in an interactive session with Norma Snell (Noble Achievers). She outlined the foundations and key elements of corporate social responsibility, discussing due diligence in the supply chain, social compliance programmes and the opportunities they offer.



"We were very pleased about the questions and discussions the speeches provoked both during the conference and afterwards at the closing cocktail reception. That speaks for the quality of the presentations and made the open meeting such a successful forum for information exchange," remarked EFIBCA Secretary General, Dr Isabell Schmidt.

EFIBCA Open Meetings are held every one and a half years. All with an interest in the FIBC industry are welcome, not only association members. The next EFIBCA event open to the public will be a Dinner Reception on 3 May 2017 in Düsseldorf, Germany, the evening before the *interpack*, the world's largest packaging trade fair.

About EFIBCA:

Founded in 1983, the European Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container Association (EFIBCA) represents the interests of FIBC manufacturers, distributors and material suppliers towards authorities, regulatory bodies, the public and other institutions connected with the FIBC business. EFIBCA offers members a platform for exchange and cooperation on quality, safety and regulatory issues and provides guidance for the FIBC user.

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