



EUROPEAN REFRACTORIES PRODUCERS' FEDERATION

European refractory industry held successful congress in Enghien-les-Bains

The 65th PRE Congress took place on 6-8 June 2018 in Enghien-les-Bains, France and was attended by around 70 participants from 15 European countries. The congress was kindly hosted by SNIFPR (Syndicat National des Industries Françaises de Produits Réfractaires - National Union of French Refractory Industries) and co-organised by PRE.

A panel debate on raw materials took place during the Economic Committee on 7 June, and four external speakers made presentations on the current situation regarding raw material supply in the refractory industry and future prospects thereof. The debate among the panellists and the industry featured questions on what the industry can do to overcome raw material supplies in the future. The PRE Economic Committee was also informed about 2017 PRE annual statistics and main import-export trends.

The PRE General Assembly gathered on 8 June to gain an overview of the activities undertaken during the last year. Discussions were held on different European policies including trade such as market access, free trade agreements and EU trade defence system; the revision of HS codes on some refractory products; the future of the Emissions Trading Scheme or the revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive, REACH and research & innovation activities.

The 2018 PRE Congress celebrated the leadership of PRE's outgoing President José María Domínguez Ibáñez, Managing Director of Alfran. PRE General Assembly elected the new PRE's President Patrick Bikard, President Operations at Vesuvius, who will replace the outgoing PRE President from January 2019. The PRE General Assembly also agreed to elect in 2019 a new Vice-President, starting from January 2019.

Next year's PRE Congress will take place on 12-14 June 2018 in Trieste, Italy and is kindly organised by Confindustria Ceramica, a member of PRE.

