



EUROPEAN REFRACTORIES PRODUCERS' FEDERATION

PRE Congress 2019 - Trieste, Italy



The 66th PRE Congress took place on 12-14 June in Trieste, Italy and was attended by around 65 participants from 16 European countries. The congress was kindly hosted by Confindustria Ceramica and co-organised by PRE.

A panel debate on Global trends in the refractory industry took place in the context of the PRE General Assembly of 14 June. Ms Carol Jackson, Chairman and CEO HarbisonWalker International, Mr Patrick André, CEO Vesuvius and Mr Rainer Gaebel, Managing Director of Refratechnik have exchanged on global challenges for the refractory industry including the trade policy under Trump administration, European climate & energy policies and the preparedness of the refractory industry in case of future raw material shortages? The PRE Economic Committee held on 13 June was also informed about 2018 PRE annual statistics and main import-export trends. An innovation of this year's PRE Congress edition were the three parallel workshops on BREF, Circular Economy & Chemical and Safety.

The report on the three parallel workshops was then presented to the PRE General Assembly by the respective industry moderators. An overview of the activities undertaken during the last year were presented by Cerame-Unie PRE staff notably on different European policies including trade; climate and energy; environment, chemicals & health and communication & lobbying activities.

The 2019 PRE Congress celebrated the leadership of PRE's new President Patrick Bikard, President Operations at Vesuvius, who took office on 1 January 2019. The PRE General Assembly also approved PRE's new Vice-President Joerg Sitzenfrey, COO Rath AG. PRE General Assembly also approved the new membership of INTOCAST represented by Mr Marcel Mix.

PRE wishes to thank PRE Members and Confindustria Ceramic and its refractory members as well as sponsors for making the 2019 PRE Congress a great success. Next year's PRE Congress will take place on 3-5 June 2019 in Madrid, Spain and is kindly organised by ANFRE.