



VEREINIGUNG EUROP.  
VERBÄNDE DES  
KACHELOFENBAUER/  
HAFNER-HANDWERKS

## Press Communiqué

### Historical Annual Congress VEUKO 2004 in Budapest

This year's annual congress of the Union of European Associations of the stove-fitter's trade took place in Budapest, from 29<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May. Against the background of the festivities to EU enlargement the associations of Slovakia and Czech Republic are admitted on the 1<sup>st</sup> May to VEUKO – a historical date for Europe. Due to this the VEUKO counts now 8 members and more manifest their wish of joining.



Group picture of the VEUKO participants

The VEUKO establishes itself more and more as a platform, where a balance of interests between guilds and associations of the member countries takes place and where combined requests are discussed and represented against other trades and Brussels too. For example decisions are made to compare the education systems of the countries and to work out recommendations. These combined efforts should be promoted and supported financially by the European Union. The interchanges of ideas about the examination for master craftsman's certificate were very

interesting too, where everything is represented from masterpieces which are built directly at the client up to only theoretical exams.

Main topics of intensive counselling were costing of stove-fitters, where an expert method especially for stove-fitters should be developed, the significance of pellets for the tile stove sector, where the latest developments were presented, computer-aided dimensioning of tile stoves and entire house heating appliances and an proposal for an European Standard for one-off tile stoves.



The participants of the meeting in the Panorama Hall

An European image campaign was discussed to secure the tile stove sector in the long run. Starting from Switzerland, where such a campaign is already carried out, a pan-European campaign could be developed. A VEUKO initiated European competition for stove-fitters should support such a pro tile stove campaign, which is planned over several years.

Among professional discussions there was a social program, very well organized by the host country Hungary, where further concerns of the member countries could be discussed without a tight order of business.



Meeting with the Hungarian chamber of commerce and industry

Hungary showed itself from its best side, whereas a potpourri of historic buildings, culture enjoyment and culinary delectability were provided.



“VEUKO is on the right way to be a professional representation of our stove fitter’s trade in Europe” a member said proudly at the end of the annual congress. This will be clearly apparent in the future, because of a new modern logo and a new homepage.