



VEREINIGUNG EUROP.
VERBÄNDE DES
KACHELOFENBAUER/
HAFNER-HANDWERKS

Press communiqué

VEUKO gains more and more in importance

From 28th to 30th April 2005 this year's annual congress of the Union of European Associations of the stove-fitter's trade took place in Innsbruck. Delegates from 11 associations of 9 countries participated in the congress and the following delegates meeting. This great interest shows the importance of this European platform for the stove-fitter's trade. For the stove-fitter's sector important topics were discussed in competent presentations and committed controversies.



Group picture of the VEUKO participants in Innsbruck

Every member presented their promotion and advertising measures, which are directed on the one hand to the stove-fitters and on the other hand to the clients. The job description of the stove-fitters – so the delegates agreed – has to meet the new requirements. Therefore an adoption and upvaluation of the existing education programs will be made

in different countries or additional specialized trainings (e.g. "Zukunftshafner" "stove-fitters for the future") or special courses (e.g. "Klimahaus" "climate house") will be established. Furthermore different campaigns, like "stove-fitter – a profession with future" were presented. The delegates were in complete agreement, that the children must not be disregarded too, and so a children's book about a tile stove and the activities of a stove-fitter was defined as an urgent target.

For the first time facts of the projects of the last year could have been reported at this year's annual meeting.

Now it is officially decided and assumed shape: The **European competition of VEUKO**. Eight of the nine countries will nominate candidates, who are qualified according to defined terms (e.g. national competitions). A neutral jury, which was appointed at the annual congress, will control the competition and secure the winners. In this case objective criteria for the evaluation are discussed and fixed too. This of highest quality affected competition will take place at the European trade fair for tile stove and ceramic from 1st to 3rd February 2006 in Wels, Austria.

VEUKO managed to install a work group at CEN, which attends to **European Standards in the sector of the technical set tile stove**. This is a great success, because until now CEN refused this and saw in the technical set tile stove only a discontinued model. As the first target the standardization of calculation methods under the chairmanship of Austria was tackled, where accordance could be reached by the VEUKO members. This intention is very important, that the technical set tile stove has in future the same high significance like today in the united Europe.

Another marvellous achievement can be announced at the sector research and development. Starting from the VEUKO an **European R&D-project "Komfortberechnung" ("calculation of comfort")** was handed in in Brussels lead-managed by Switzerland. VEUKO is an important partner for this project, what proves the wide acceptance to the persons in charge in Brussels and what shall gain funds for the tile stove sector from Brussels.

At the annual congress in Innsbruck the **first handout** of VEUKO was presented. It deals with the topic "tile stove as entire house heating" that was discussed intensively at the last year's congress and represent now

the established knowledge and competence of the stove-fitters. The handout is an introduction to this topic and shows a successful project, which was supported by VEUKO with measurement technique. It shall reassure – like the chairman of VEUKO said – those stove-fitters who didn't dare to work on this topic until now to acquire this field of activity too.

Among professional discussions there was an, of the office of VEUKO marvellous organized, social program, where other wishes of the single countries could be discussed without a strict order of the day. The evening in breezy altitude arranged by the company Poli-Keramik with a potpourri of design, culture and culinary deliciousness will remain in enjoyable and constant memory among the visit of the "Swarovski Kristallwelten".



Comfortable evening by invitation of the company. Poli-Keramik

"In these three days more was done for an united Europe than some politicians do in a whole year." a participant of the annual congress said at the end. This is the best attestation for an excellent culture of discussion and the best basis for a successful work for the welfare of the tile stove sector in the future.