



Press communiqué

VEUKO Congress 2006

Particulate Matter – no problem for heating professionals

Overall there is a pan-European rising tendency in the stove-fitters sector.

At the end of April the annual congress of the Union of European Associations of the stove-fitter's trade (VEUKO) took place in Prague. All member countries reported of a good mood in the stove-fitter's sector and a noticeable upward trend compared with last years. The members agreed on the fact that the actual energy discussion about the jumped up prices for oil and gas gave an additional positive push for the sector. Particulate matter played an outstanding role at the key topics.

From 27th to 29th April the annual congress 2006 of the Union of European Associations of the stove-fitter's trade (VEUKO) was hold in Prague. The organizer, the Czech tile stove organisation, invited to the "Golden Town" and eleven association delegates of nine countries accepted this invitation. During these three days there was as always an extensive exchange of information, intensive consultations and resolutions about actual topics of the tile stove sector.

The reports of several associations had basically one conclusion: Things are looking up again. The order

situation of the companies is very good and the sector looks optimistically into the future. This is owed to the latest development of the oil price and to the dependence of international developments, like for example gas supplies.

VEUKO was founded three years ago as a follow up organisation to the "Meeting of 4 countries" and can refer on some remarkable prosperity during this short time.

So a European Championship for stove-fitter trainees, which was brought into being by VEUKO, took place in February for the fist time.

The competition was carried out early in February during the KOK Austria in Wels and was very well accepted. Such competitions have on the one hand demonstrable a great importance for the offspring in the sector and on the other hand can be excellently used in media. A film which was produced by the organizer, the Austrian tile stove organisation, showed to the participants of the annual congress, how such events affects in media. It was generally agreed, that this European Championship was a great success and have to be repeated.



In the range of European Standardisation first prosperities could be reported too. Not least with the aid of VEUKO the prEN 15544 "One off Kachelgrundofen/Putzgrundofen (tiled/mortared stoves) – a calculation method" is finished in record time and released for public-opinion poll, so a publication is possible still this year.

Furthermore a few bilateral activities are presented, which demonstrate that VEUKO is not only active once a year but during the whole year.

Particulate matter played a very important role in the discussion about actual topics. In Italy there is a discussion about imposing a heating ban due to particulate matter.

Mr. DI Rolf Heinen, which presently tries to establish meaningful regulations for small firing plants, participated in these proceedings. Due to the presentations and discussion it became clear, that particulate matter caused by the products of the stove-fitter represent only a very small part of the whole problem, because a professionally set stove in conjunction with adequate fuel and a correct heating technique does not lead to noteworthy emissions. It was expressed very clearly, that firings with a good burnout have the lowest particulate matter emissions, so that the efforts for decrease emissions were already important to decrease particulate matter emissions of the so called domestic fuel in the discussion about particulate matter.

There were different concepts about dealing with this problem. On the one hand some participants argued, that the trade has to approach the topic particulate matter offensively, but on the other hand some said, that it is better to inform ("we did our homework to enhance our products during the last years"). But

overall they were in complete agreement that VEUKO has to pursue this problem actively.



Mr. Univ. Prof. Dr. Hermann Hofbauer, re-elected president of VEUKO, expressed his understanding of VEUKO and compared VEUKO with Prague: “Prague” means translated literally “beam” and describes this place where the river Vltava can be crossed simplest. The intention of VEUKO is to be a platform, where it is very simple to get over different opinions, to build bridges and to represent as efficient as possible combined interests in Europe.

New elected officials (period 2006-2009):

President:

Univ. Prof. Hermann Hofbauer

Vice-president:

Ing. Robert Salvata

Comptroller:

Fred Becker

Vilem König