



UNION des FOIRES INTERNATIONALES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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UFI Continues to Develop as it Expands the Scope of its Industry Representation

Munich, Germany and Paris, France: At the 69th UFI (Union of International Fairs) Congress, graciously hosted by UFI Member Messe München GmbH on October 24 and 25, 2002, UFI's Annual Assembly voted on a number of measures which will enable the organization to develop its structure to meet the challenges faced by the trade fairs and exhibitions industry in the future.

Among the most important of these steps is the decision to establish the position of "Incoming UFI President" to ensure the organization's management continuity. Mr. Ruud van Ingen, Chairman of the Board, Jaarbeurs, Utrecht, was unanimously selected by UFI's Steering Committee to take on this role for the year 2002-2003. Mr. van Ingen will second Mr. Sandy Angus, current President of UFI for the 2001-2003 term of office. The two will work closely with the UFI Executive Committee, UFI Business Management Committee and UFI Managing Director Vincent Gérard, to develop a UFI strategy aimed at aggressively positioning the organization for the many challenges the industry faces in the years ahead. In announcing the role of Mr. van Ingen, Sandy Angus explained that, "the demands on the Presidency of UFI require a higher profile than can be provided by one person. In a two-year presidential cycle, an "incoming president" will ensure continuity in developing and implementing an effective UFI strategy for the future. I am convinced that Ruud van Ingen is uniquely qualified to fulfill this role."

During the Annual General Assembly, UFI Members voted to admit a number of new members into the organization including: eleven new member organizations, two new associations, and one additional hall owner. Twenty-nine fairs have also been accepted as new UFI-approved events. For the first time UFI members voted for the admission of two industry partners into the organization, reflecting the strong UFI membership desire that the organization become truly representative of the entire trade fair and exhibition sector.

UFI announced a number of events planned for the future including the 2003 UFI Congress which will be held in Cairo from 19 to 21 October and the 2004 UFI Congress will be held in Bangkok from 24 to 26 November. UFI also announced that it will continue its partnership with XM as it plans for a UFI-XM

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Summer Seminar in Gothenburg, Sweden from 12 to 13 June, 2003 . A one-day seminar on Waste Management will immediately precede the Gothenburg Summer Seminar event. Building on the success of their partnership in Singapore in 2002, UFI and XM plan to organize another Asia Seminar in mid-May 2003, the location of which will be announced shortly.

UFI is the union of the world's leading show organisers and fairground owners, the major national and international associations of the exhibition industry, and their partners. Via its 234 member organisations, including 35 international and national associations, UFI is present in 73 countries in 148 cities on 5 continents. UFI members organise 640 approved international exhibitions around the world.

For additional information on UFI Programs and events, please consult the UFI website at www.ufinet.org

For more information please contact:

UFI

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