

# NEWSLETTER

November 2008



EFEE

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## Dear EFEE members

The last General Assembly and the 42<sup>nd</sup> council meeting were held in Aachen, October 2008. As the meeting was held on the 20 anniversary of EFEE, originally founded in Aachen, the social activities was focused on this, which was materialized in a night's dinner at the Stolberg fortress. ( read more about the foundation of EFEE below.) Fifteen delegates representing a majority of the national members attended the meeting. Main subjects on the Agenda were:

- Action on EU-directives to ensure EFEE contribution in form of knowledge and needs of our member countries. See the council meeting minutes for further information.
- The ongoing ESSEEM-project (European Shotfirer Standard Education for Enhanced Mobility) funded by LdV, a project kick-started and in the starting process funded by EFEE to ensure the interests of EFEE and its members. Read more about ESSEEM in the article below.
- The ending EU-Excert project - results and achievements.
- The problems regarding the past secretary, the work of our new secretary, past President Roger Holmberg, and he's work on cleaning up after the mess left behind. Read more in the article below.
- Updates were made on the 2011 conference to be held in Lisbon, Portugal.

The delegates were also informed that national membership applications have been made by Ukraine and Hungary; the two new members are expected to be part of EFEE from the beginning of 2009.

Next council meetings are to be held in spring 2009, in connection to the 42<sup>nd</sup> EFEE conference in Budapest, followed by the autumn meeting in October 2009 in St. Petersburg, Russia.

*Johan Finsteen Gjødvad, Chairman of the Newsletter committee and member of the board*

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## The foundation of EFEE, now and the future [\[BACK\]](#)

During the conference of the American Society of Explosives Engineers in 1988, now named ISEE, at Anaheim/California Walter Werner met several colleagues from Europe, among them Roger Holmberg. Despite a good conference W. Werner thought that the Europeans could manage something like this too. Werner had earlier been in contact with several explosives specialists he had met at the international conferences at Linz/Austria and Budapest/Hungary.

W. Werner being the president of the German Blaster's Association invited his colleagues to Aachen in West- Germany to establish a European institute of explosives engineers. Aachen was chosen by Werner because it is situated in the centre of Middle-Europe close to the Netherlands and Belgium.



*From the left:*

Witzgall, Becker, Fink, Broadhurst (GB), Ebner, Grünfeld (NL), Böking, Peeters (NL), Dell, Werner, Fardel (CH), Gysin (CH), Groves (GB), Vogt-Sasse, Roller and Vuolio (Fin)

Five nations were present at October 20<sup>th</sup>, 1988 when EFEE was founded: Finland (Raimo Vuolio), the Netherlands (Henk Grünfeld and Joep Peeters), Switzerland (Didier Fardel and Hans Gysin), UK (Ken Broadhurst and Mike Groves) and Germany with nearly the complete board of the German association. Roger Holmberg, Sweden showed interest, but sent an apology as well as Austria. Both countries joined EFEE later.

After long discussions regarding the English name of the organization, with suggestions as “*European Explosives Engineering Institute*”, the name was finally decided to be the present name “*European Federation of Explosives Engineers*” (EFEE). The German name easily followed “*Europäischer Sprengverband*”, copying the German Blaster's Association. Fortunately there was with Didier Fardel a French speaking colleague the French name was found as “*Fédération Européenne des Spécialistes de Minage*”. The difficulty with finding a suitable name was an indication of one of EFEE's and EU's future challenges in the big variety of languages. Walter Werner was elected as the first President for the period 1988-1999. The presidents of EFEE are listed below:

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<b>Period</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Country</b>
1988	Walter Werner	Germany
1989	Ken Broadhurst	UK
1991	Henk Grünfeld	Netherlands
1992-1993	Hans Solenthaler	Switzerland
1993-1994	Björn Jonsson	Sweden
1994-1995	Herbert Holluba	Austria
1995-1996	Jørgen Schneider	Denmark
1997	Raimo Vuolio	Finland
1998-2000	Rolf Schillinger	Germany
2000-2002	Aslak Ravlo	Norway
2002-2003	Remy Müller	Switzerland
2003- 2004	Heinz Berger	Austria
2005- 2006	Mark Hatt	UK
2007- 2008	Roger Holmberg	Sweden
2008-	José Carlos Gois	Portugal

In May 1990 a first EFEE – conference was held in Brussels with, now counting 9 nations and more than 90 participants. Even though the next conference 1<sup>st</sup> World Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique was held in Munich with 16 member countries and 450 participants, the Brussels conference was an important event which lifted EFEE to a higher level. Between these first two conferences EFEE was developing through regular meetings all over Europe and through national conferences with international guests. Hereafter conferences have been held, with increasing success in Prague (2003), Brighton (2005) and latest Vienna (2007). The following conferences will be held in Budapest (April 2009), in Lisbon (2011) and in Moscow (2012 or 2013). Council meetings have been held in numerous member countries and cities, ensuring the steady successful development of EFEE.



Night's dinner and firework, at the Stolberg castle sponsored by the German blasting association

Today EFEE has grown to a well represented organization listing member nations from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden,

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Switzerland, UK and Ukraine, followed by 13 corporate members and 55 individual members.



Anniversary  
Platter

The first EFEE  
President  
Walter Werner  
is given a platter  
celebrating the  
20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary of  
EFEE  
(1988-2008)

It is a great challenge to get a united Europe, but we owe it to future generations and the growth of EFEE to prove that it is worth the efforts. The newsletter congratulates EFEE for the successful 20 years, and hope for many more to come.

*Walter Werner, Representative of Germany and First EFEE President, and  
Johan Finsteen Gjødvad Chairman of the Newsletter committee and member of the board*

## The upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> EFEE World Conference in Budapest [\[BACK\]](#)

The 2009 conference will be held in Budapest, Hungary April 26-28 at the InterContinental hotel. Several abstracts were submitted to the Technical Committee covering the following topics:

- EU Directives and Harmonisation Work
- Health, Safety and the Environment
- Technical Development
- Shot Hole Development
- Blasting Covering Experiences from Projects
- Clearance & Decontamination of Deserted Plants Areas
- Management Covering Blast Design
- Explosive Detection for Security
- New Applications & Training

The Technical Committee has been working hard in order to reply the authors before the end of November. The Workshop on Sunday afternoon, in Budapest, dedicated to Electronic detonators and the Application of Explosives in Compaction, Welding and Metal Forming will provide an opportunity to discuss in details about the recent novelties of detonators and to discover others applications of explosives less covered in the EFEE conference proceedings. A large number of exhibitors involved in rock blasting, fragmentation, vibrations, detonators, demolition, new applications and training have signed up. Companies listed so far are: 3G Software & Measurement GmbH, 3M France, Advanced Energetics, Akzo Nobel, AP Deutschland, Atlas Copco, Austin

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Powder, Blastlog, Chr.Otto Pape Metalle, Dyno Nobel, Expancel, Geo-Konzept GmbH, GPN, InstanTEL, Lubrizol, MAXAM Europe, MDL, Mineexplo (Exchem) and Mocap.

A remarkable social program will be offered giving the opportunity to explore the rich and fascinating history of Budapest appreciating the charm of several thermal baths and the beauty of the Danube from the Buda Mountain.

Read more about the conference in the attached press release, or visit [www.efee.eu](http://www.efee.eu).

*José Carlos Gois, EFEE President*

## **New secretary for EFEE [\[BACK\]](#)**

Initially employed for her remarkable language skills, presented by Mrs Katarzyna Allen, her difficulties to provide in time, with the normal secretary activity and to follow the regular procedures, EFEE has been forced to execute her contract. Past President, Mr Roger Holmberg, recently retired from his job at ORICA, has acted as EFEE secretary from 1<sup>st</sup> of August. His large experience with EFEE coupled with his huge technical skills will be extremely important to improve the regular activity of EFEE. Prior living in Sweden, Roger is now living in Malta taking the advantage of a warm temperature country.

*José Carlos Gois, EFEE President*

## **ESSEEM project from LdV programme was approved [\[BACK\]](#)**

The ESSEEM project (European Shotfirer Standard Education for Enhanced Mobility) concerning harmonised European Technical Training was approved by Lifelong Learning Programme Leonardo da Vinci. It will cover the adopted training requirements for construction and demolition using energetic materials. The requirements are given in the “European Shotfire Requirements” valid for rock blasting and demolition respectively validate by EFEE to European shotfire fits to the education level 4. The objective is to select/prepare manuals/training to satisfy the requirements described above. The goal of the project is a recognised European Quality Certification that will enhance opportunities in the European market, reduce formal adversaries. The project is based on the cooperation between 12 partners from 18 European countries, all related to the construction industry and the use of explosives in blasting services. The project starts on November 2008 and has two years of duration. The output in various European languages will be available during the period March 2011 to June 2012.

*José Carlos Gois, EFEE President*

## **European Commission: Enhancing the Security of explosives containing a proposal for a comprehensive Action Plan [\[BACK\]](#)**

On 18. April 2008, the Council of the European Union adopted the EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives. The Action Plan is based on the Commission's Communication of 6. November 2007 on enhancing the security of explosives and has been adopted following intensive negotiations between the Member States and the Commission. The Action Plan came from the activity of Explosives Security Experts Task Force (ESETF), which completed its work in June 2007 with the identification of 50 recommendations for actions.

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The Action Plan is built on:

Three pillars: prevention, detection and response containing specific measures on explosive precursors, the supply chain (storage, transport, traceability) and detection.

A horizontal set of measures concerning public security which complement and consolidate the three pillars.

The Action Plan contains 48 specific actions under the horizontal, prevention, detection and response headings, along with deadlines for their implementation. If it is possible that a particular action could have significant economic consequences, the implementation of that action will depend on further feasibility work.

For example the **Early Warning System on Explosives (EWS)** would link public security authorities of the Member States and Europol. It would provide for early warnings on such issues as: Immediate threats; Theft of explosives; Theft of detonators; Theft of precursors; suspicious transactions; Discovery of new modi operandi.

The EWS could be built on the existing system functioning between the G6 states. The Commission could provide funding for the extension of the G6 network to all Member States. Funding will be made available for measures falling under the Action Plan by way of two programmes.

*José Carlos Gois, EFEE President*

## Upcoming events [\[BACK\]](#)

2008	Dec	Explosives – Technology and application, Portuguese Engineers Society	<a href="http://www.ordemengenheiros.pt">www.ordemengenheiros.pt</a>
2009	Feb 8-11	ISEE 35th Annual Conference on Expl & Blasting Technique	<a href="http://www.isee.org">www.isee.org</a>
	Apr 1-3	12th Int. Seminar “New Trends in Research of Energetic Materials”	<a href="http://www.ntrem.com/">http://www.ntrem.com/</a>
	Apr 26-28	The 5th EFEE World Conference on Explosives and Blasting	<a href="http://www.efee.eu">www.efee.eu</a>
	May 23-28	ITA-AITES World Tunnel Congress 2009	<a href="http://www.wtc2009.org">www.wtc2009.org</a> <a href="http://www.ita-hun.hu">www.ita-hun.hu</a>
	June 14-17	2009 RETC - Rapid Excavation & Tunneling	<a href="http://www.retc.com">www.retc.com</a>
	June 22-26	Securing the Future	<a href="http://www.security.skelleftea.se">www.security.skelleftea.se</a>
	July 27-31	22 <sup>nd</sup> International Colloquium on the Dynamics of Explosions and Reactive Systems	<a href="http://www.icders2009.com">www.icders2009.com</a>
	Sept 13-17	Fragblast-9	<a href="http://www.fragblast.org">www.fragblast.org</a>

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