



ESU-Information

ESU Congress 2023: Success through cooperation!

Participants from nine nations at the federation meeting in Monte Carlo
Showmen's associations from Portugal and France new ESU members



Unity is strength! The participants of the ESU Congress 2023 in Monte Carlo.

For almost three years, due to the Corona pandemic, congresses, meetings and discussion rounds could only take place via video link. Shortly after the first Corona lockdown, the ESU Presidium relied - of necessity - on the possibility of exchanging information on problems and questions among themselves and with the national associations via zoom or telephone conference and coordinating assistance. But there are

also limits to communication via digital technology alone; a personal exchange is hardly possible via a screen.

All participants of the 42nd ESU Congress were therefore delighted to finally be able to meet "in presence" again after almost three years. The General Assembly on 22 January marked the end of the three-day International Showmen's Meeting 2023 in Monte Carlo.



Common prayer in memory of the deceased European showmen and women at the beginning of the Congress.

Consequences of the Corona Pandemic for the Showmen's Trade in Europe

At the beginning of the plenary session, President Albert Ritter warmly welcomed the showmen and women from Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, Portugal and France.

In the subsequent review of the work of the ESU by President Ritter and Secretary General Steve Severeijns, the focus was on the consequences of the Corona pandemic for the showmen's trade and fairgrounds in Europe.

According to Ritter, the pandemic had hit the European fairground industry particularly hard. But this crisis in particular had once again shown the importance of cohesion among showmen and women across borders. "We didn't let it get us down," said Albert Ritter, "but fought together to preserve the fairgrounds and Christmas markets."

General Secretary Severeijns recalled that tens of thousands of showmen and women had demonstrated all over Europe during the Corona crisis to draw attention to the dramatic situation of the industry and to make demands on politicians. As examples, he mentioned

the demonstrations in the Netherlands (11.05.2020), Germany (02.07.2020), Belgium (31.07.2020), Switzerland (19.08.2020) and Italy (26.03.2021).



DSB General Manager Frank Hakelberg reports on current showman topics from Germany.

After presenting the results of the work, DSB General Manager Frank Hakelberg provided information on current showmen's issues in Germany, which, as President Ritter emphasised, also affect the associations and companies in neighbouring European countries. Frank Hakelberg's report focused on an overview of state Corona aid, the topic of "affiliated companies", the Packaging Act, the labour shortage and the effects of the energy crisis on the showmen's industry.

EU education projects for the next generation of showmen

Promoting educational opportunities for showmen's children and young people is a central task of the European Showmen's Union. Nina Crommelin, ESU Deputy General Secretary and member of the board of the European education network ENTE, reported on the current status of European education projects for the next generation of showmen. In this context, Nina Crommelin praised "the fantastic cooperation of the ESU nations" in representing showmen's interests to the European Union. As an example, she mentioned the inclusion of the passage "travellers or occupational travellers" in the final version of a Council of Europe resolution of November 2021 on improving the educational situation of children and young people. The original draft did not include "occupational travellers". The ESU Education Officer called the inclusion of the group of "occupational travellers" a "great success", which had only been possible through the commitment of all those involved at

short notice. Within a week, she said, it had been possible to draw the attention of the respective education attachés of the various EU member states in Brussels to the discrepancies and successfully call for action. Nina Crommelin: "The Council of Europe's recommendation is an important step for the further development of educational opportunities for children of occupational travellers. It is a strong and effective argument for improving the education of children of occupational travellers in individual EU member states."



View of the plenary.

Associations in France and Portugal admitted to ESU

Following the technical presentations, the delegates discussed further current topics from the ESU associations. The showmen's associations Fédération des Forains de France (France), represented by Vice President Saquet Xavier, and Associação dos Profissionais Itinerantes Certificados (Portugal), represented by President Luís Paulo Fernandes, were admitted to the ESU as new member associations by unanimous decision in each case. President Albert Ritter warmly welcomed the new associations to the ESU.



British showwomen Joannie Peaks and Bernice Wall present the campaign "Future 4 Fairgrounds".

"Future 4 Fairgrounds" campaign presented

At the invitation of the ESU Presidium, the British showwomen Joannie Peaks and Bernice Wall attended the meeting in Monte Carlo and presented the "Future 4 Fairgrounds" campaign with a power point presentation.

"Future 4 Fairgrounds" was founded against the backdrop of the serious consequences of the Corona pandemic for the showmen's trade and fairgrounds in the UK in autumn 2020. Since then, the six showwomen Bernice Wall, Narvenka Noyce, Hayley Danter, Nicola Hill, Joannie Peak and Colleen Roper have been causing a stir and attracting media attention with their marketing and PR campaigns, not only in the UK. They have made it their task to inform and sensitise politicians and the public about current fairground topics but also about the cultural and social significance of the fairgrounds.

For their public relations work, the "Future 4 Fairgrounds" group very successfully uses social media such as Facebook, Instagram and YouTube, among others.

"This initiative is a great thing," said President Albert Ritter. In these difficult times for the European fairground industry, "Future 4 Fairgrounds" sends an important signal. Joannie Peaks and Bernice Wall were given a big send-off by the Congress participants for their presentation



The new ESU Presidium: (from left) Vice President Alex James Colquhoun, Vice President Are Arnardo, Vice President Atze Lubach-Koers, Vice President Charles Senn, President Albert Ritter, Secretary General Steve Severeyns, Deputy Secretary General Nina Crommelin.

New Presidium elected

In the elections for the Presidium, Albert Ritter was confirmed in his office as President with a large majority. He will be supported for the next term of office by the likewise re-elected Vice-Presidents Atze Lubach-Koers and Charles Senn as well as the newly elected Vice-Presidents Are Arnardo and Alex James Colquhoun. The ESU team is completed by the Secretary General Steve Severeyns, who was also confirmed in office, and the re-elected Deputy Secretary General Nina Crommelin. Also confirmed in Monte Carlo was the President of the European Showmen's Women's Union Rosa Severeyns; the new President of the European Showmen's Youth Union is Bernhard Parpalioni.

Results of the Presidium Elections

European Showmen's Union

- President Albert Ritter
- Vice-President Atze Lubach-Koers
- Vice-President Charles Senn
- Vice-President Alex James Colquhoun
- Vice-President Are Arnardo
- General Secretary Steve Severeyns

- Deputy General Secretary Nina Crommelin
- Auditor Kokkie Kroon
- Deputy Auditor Oliver Wilmering
- Flag bearer Mike Roie

European Showmen's Women's Union

- President Rosa Severeys
- Vice President Anika Theunisz
- Vice-President Jenny Bossle
- Vice-President Nancy Schneider
- Vice-President Michele Theunisz

European Showmen's Youth Union

- President Bernhard Parpalloni
- Vice-President Julius Kritz
- Vice President Mike Roie
- Treasurer Philip Gronen
- Secretary Björn Ahrend

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Editorial office

Albert Ritter (responsible)

Christoph Jansen

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Contact

Christoph Jansen

European Showmen's Union

c/o Deutscher Schaustellerbund e.V.

Am Weidendamm 1a, D-10117 Berlin

Phone: +49 (0) 228 64 48 64

Mobile: +49 (0) 170 270 66 68

E-mail: christoph.jansen@dsbev.de