



# ESU-Information

**Bienvenue Fédération des Forains de France!**

Portrait of the new French ESU member federation



The participants of the 42nd ESU Congress 2023 with Xavier Saquet (second row, right), Vice-President of the new ESU federation Fédération des Forains de France.

The European Showmen's Union (ESU) is very proud to belong to the circle of the oldest European professional organisations. Founded in 1954, the association today comprises 24 national showmen's associations. Every day, 75,000 family-run businesses employing more than 600,000 showwomen and showmen throughout Europe ensure that the fairgrounds spin to the delight of visitors young and old - as they have done for centuries. Fairgrounds are a European cultural asset with a 1200-year-old tradition.



Xavier Saquet (right), Vice-President of the French Showmen's Federation Fédération des Forains de France, presents the application certificate to President Albert Ritter at the ESU Congress 2023 in Monte Carlo.

Every two years, the representatives of the ESU federations meet at the International Showmen's Congress to discuss current industry topics and to discuss the admission of new members. At the 42nd ESU Congress in Monte Carlo in January 2023, the showmen's associations Fédération des Forains de France (France), represented by Vice-President Xavier Saquet, and Associação dos Profissionais Itinerantes Certificados (Portugal), represented by President Luís Paulo Fernandes, were admitted to the ESU by unanimous decision. To great applause from the participants, President Albert Ritter warmly welcomed the new members to the ESU circle.

In today's edition of the ESU Information, we would like to introduce the new French ESU Association in more detail:



**FÉDÉRATION  
DES FORAINS  
DE FRANCE** 

### **Defending professional interests and shaping the future**

The Fédération des Forains de France (FFF) was founded in October 2019. According to its statutes, it unites the companies of the French show business and represents their

interests. Its tasks include establishing, consolidating and developing links and corporate relations between its members and the municipalities, départements and regions. The FFF represents the general and professional interests of showwomen and showmen vis-à-vis the authorities, the administration and the public. Another task is to cooperate with national and international organisations for the benefit of the showmen's industry and the future of fairground culture in France.



President Nicolas Lemay and Vice-Presidents Xavier Saquet and Martial Gouin (from left) proudly present the founding charter of the Fédération des Forains de France. Photo: Fédération des Forains de France

The importance of the work of the Fédération des Forains de France is illustrated by the example of the recent Corona crisis. The pandemic had led the French fairground industry, as everywhere else in Europe, into its most serious crisis to date. Due to the cancellation of the fairgrounds and the resulting loss of income, a large number of the showmen's families faced economic ruin. Centuries-old traditional fairgrounds were threatened with disappearing forever from the cultural life of the cities. In successful negotiations with the political leaders, the FFF succeeded in creating the framework conditions for the continued existence of the showmen's trade and the fairgrounds in France.

**Further information:**

Website: <https://federationdesforainsdefrance.fr/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/federationforainsdefrance>

## **ESU-Information**

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