



# ESU-Information

## Happy Birthday ESU!

Picture review of the 70th anniversary of the European Showmen's Union



The 1st ESU Congress was held in Amsterdam in 1957.

It is one of the oldest European professional organisations with over 70,000 members in 19 countries: the European Showmen's Union, or ESU for short. In 1954, three years before the signing of the Treaty of Rome that led to today's European Union, national showmen's and amusement park associations joined forces to form a Europe-wide interest group. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the European Showmen's Union. We would like to take this anniversary as an opportunity to report on the origins of the ESU, its development and significant events of the last 70 years in a series of articles. In today's edition of ESU Information, however, the focus will be on pictures rather than text, because, as we all know, pictures are often worth a thousand words.



The ESU traditional flag symbolises the unity of showmen and showwomen in Europe.



In 1983, Pope John-Paul II receives ESU President Harry Wollenschlaeger in the Vatican.



ESU grand seigneur Willi Bruch with the board of the European Showmen's Youth Union at the flag inauguration in Luxembourg in 2004.



At the invitation of the European Showwomen's Union, from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, England, Sweden and Finland met in Paris in March 2014. The highlight of the meeting in the French capital was a visit to the showmen's museum "Musée des Arts Forains".



Albert Ritter, Steve Severeys and Jany de Vries at der Cranger Kirmes 2004.



View of the plenum at the 2018 ESU Congress in Amsterdam.



Meeting of the ESU Presidium 2001 in Bonn.



The ESU Parliamentary Evening took place in Brussels on 28 November 2007 with the participation of numerous members of the European Parliament. The festive highlight was the awarding of the "Golden Carousel Horse" to the Minister of Economic Affairs of the Netherlands, Maria van der Hoeven (2nd from left).



ESU delegation at the 2015 German Showmen's Association rally in Aachen.



In October 2012, the European Parliament in Brussels was the venue for the 37th ESU Congress.



Festive evening at the ESU Congress 2014 in Dublin.



Business meeting at the 2020 Congress in Vienna.

## Steve Severeyns new president of the Belgian Showmen's Association La Défense des Forains Belges



Steve Severeyns in the circle of the ESU Executive Committee 2023 in Monte Carlo: (from left) Vice President Charles Senn, President Albert Ritter, Secretary General Steve Severeyns, flag bearer Mike Roie, Deputy Secretary General Nina Crommelin, Vice President Atze Lubach-Koers, Vice President Are Arnardo, Vice President Alex James Colquhoun.

The members of the Belgian Showmen's Association La Défense des Forains Belges (VBF-DFB) elected the current Secretary General Steve Severeyns as the new President of the showmen's organisation at their General Assembly in February. Steve Severeyns, Secretary General of the European Showmen's Union since 2012, succeeds Walter Dotremont, who stepped down at the age of 74 after 12 years as Chairman. The General Assembly appointed Walter Dotremont as Honorary President for his many years of service to the VBF-DFB. Alexander Dotremont was elected as the new General Secretary.

Steve Severeyns said after his election: "It is a great honour for me to represent the Belgian Showmen's Association and our funfair culture at local, national and international level. I will work to promote innovation and sustainability in the fairground industry with respect for its historical origins and with an eye to the future. I would like to thank Walter Dotremont for giving a new generation of showmen and showwomen the opportunity to further modernise fairgrounds and make them fit for the future. My team and I are ready to do this with great dedication and commitment." The new VBF-DFB President also addressed the two Belgian sister organisations. "Good cooperation can only advance our fantastic industry," emphasised Severeyns.



The newly elected VBF-DFB President Steve Severeys (left) with his long-time predecessor Walter Dotremont. Photo: VBF-DFB

On behalf of the ESU, President Albert Ritter warmly congratulated Steve Severeys on his election. "With this decision, your many years of work at La Défense des Forains Belges are being recognised as they deserve," explained Ritter. "I wish you a happy hand at all times in your important work for the benefit of our beloved profession of showmen and showwomen in Belgium and throughout Europe. I look forward to continuing our good, collegial cooperation in the future," said the ESU President.

## **ESU-Information**

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