



ESU-Information

ESU Executive Committee discusses current issues facing European fairground operators and associations

44th ESU Congress in Paris in 2027



The Congress is the ESU's highest decision-making body; here is a photo from the 2025 annual conference in Edinburgh. In January 2027, Paris will host the major international fairground operators' gathering.

The Executive Committee of the European Showmen's Union met via video conference on 2 April to discuss current issues facing the association and the industry.

Chaired by ESU President Albert Ritter, the meeting was attended by Vice-Presidents Nicolas Lemay and Alex James Colquhoun, Secretary General Steve Severeys and Wim Van Stiphout (ESU Finance Secretariat). Vice-Presidents Atze Lubach-Koers and Are Arnardo were absent with apologies.

A key item on the agenda was the preparation of the next ESU Congress, which will take place on 18 and 19 January 2027 in Paris. The Pavillons de Bercy, with its historic fairground museum, was confirmed as the venue. The participants emphasised the importance of this international gathering for the ESU and the European fairground industry. The Congress is the ESU's highest decision-making body, at which representatives of the national member associations discuss jointly how to safeguard the profession and preserve and promote fairgrounds in Europe. A key item on the agenda is the election of the ESU Presidium, as well as the executive committees of the European Showmen's Youth Union and the European Showmen's Women Union.



The Pavillons de Bercy in Paris's 12th arrondissement are home to the Musée des Arts Forains – one of the world's largest private collections of historical fairground art. Photo: Pavillons de Bercy

In addition, the Executive Committee decided to appoint Wim Van Stiphout as acting Deputy General Secretary of the ESU, succeeding Nina Crommelin, who had stepped down from her post for personal reasons. On behalf of the ESU, President Albert Ritter warmly thanked Nina Crommelin for her many years of exceptional dedication and the trusting cooperation within the Executive Committee. Albert Ritter emphasised that Nina Crommelin had played a decisive role in shaping the work of the ESU with great passion and professional expertise.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included the updating and revamping of the ESU website, the confirmation and revision of the 2012 ESU Resolution, and issues relating to financial planning and budgetary development.

The participants concluded by highlighting the open, cooperative, and constructive dialogue within the Executive Committee. Particularly in view of the diverse challenges at European level, close cooperation within the ESU is of great importance in order to represent the interests of showmen

and showwomen in the long term and to play an active role in shaping the future of fairgrounds in Europe.

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Issue 5.2026, 09.06.2026

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