

Press Release

## **ARGE (The European Federation of Associations of Lock and Builders Hardware Manufacturers)**

### Successful Conference

Representatives from 14 countries attended the Annual Conference held from 17th to 19th September 2009 as guests of the Association of the Czech Republic (Ceska Asociace Vyrobcu Zamku A Stavebniho Kovani).

The President of ARGE, David Whitworth, from the Door and Hardware Federation in the United Kingdom put forward for approval by the National Representatives two significant documents which will change the purpose and importance of ARGE.

The proposals which were approved unanimously by the Presidential Council are for a New Business Plan and adoption of this Two Year Business Plan and a substantial document on Panic and Exit Devices.

The Two-Year Business plan, by utilising increased resources, is targeted to increase ARGE's influence in Brussels to the benefit of its members.

This extensive document is titled: ARGE Guidelines No. 1 for Panic and Exit Devices. It follows meetings held by ARGE with DG Enterprises, which is an arm of the Commission.

From these meetings it is clear that to make EN standards work for the benefit of manufacturing industry, it has to provide the correct information for users and specifiers regarding the standards, on how to install the product and how to maintain the product. The approved document is the result of two years work by ARGE working group C.

The increased resources within the Business Plan will allow ARGE to produce the next document within 12 months on Door Closing Devices.

Working Groups of ARGE presented the results of their year's work to the Conference:-

Working Group C explained the content of European Guidelines No. 1.

Working Group H 'Terminology' presented their work on the descriptions of names on builder's hardware products in different European languages. It was reported that this should be complete to go into the ARGE website before the end of 2009.

Working Group M 'Market Information' demonstrated the building industry trends in the different countries with forecasts for 2010 and 2011. The presentations set out the trends of imports and exports in the member countries.

The Conference had the benefit of two outstanding lectures. On the first day Zacharies Bilalils from the office of Enterprise and Industry Directorate General at the European Commission spoke about the Commission's new legal framework through the Construction Product Regulation in place from January 1st 2010. It is a legally enforceable document in each EU country, and will embrace market surveillance, the status of notified bodies and a revised Construction Product Directive.

On the second day, Professor Michael Grömling, from the International University of Bad Honnef, Bonn, spoke with great clarity on the causes of the current economic recession and the lessons the world community should learn from it as economies start to emerge from it.

Vladimir Chládek, Chairman of Czech Hardware Association commented strongly on the quality of the business sessions declaring the conference to be a success including the well-coordinated social programme.

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