

## EPF elects Paolo Fantoni as new chairman

Dr Paolo Fantoni (Fantoni S.p.A., Ossopo, Italy) was elected new chairman of the European Panel Federation (EPF), headquartered in Brussels, at its annual general meeting, which took place in Vienna, Austria from 24 to 26 June 2015. Martin Bretenthaler (Pavatex S.A., Fribourg, Switzerland) is the new deputy chairman, having already represented the interests of fibreboard manufacturers on the managing board. Dr Fantoni was elected chairman for two years. The deputy chairman's term actually runs for five years, according to the EPF's statutes, which were revised at the end of March. However, the federation is currently looking into the possibility of bringing the length of their mandates into line with one another.

The election of a new chairman and deputy chairman brings an end to a hunt lasting more than two years for a replacement for EPF president Ladislaus Döry who had been in office since June 2004. The role of president is being discontinued in its current form. The vice-president position had been vacant since the resignation of João Paulo do Santos Pinto (Sonae Industria SGPS S.A., Maia, Portugal) at the EPF general meeting in Dublin, Ireland in 2013. Organisational changes implemented over the past few months transferred some of Mr Döry's duties to Clive Pinnington who took on the new role of EPF managing director on 13 April.

At the same time, the former secretary general Kris Wijnendaele was named new technical director. Both positions are new. The role of secretary general was discontinued. The revision to the statutes required for these changes was adopted at the meeting of members held in Brussels between 24 and 26 March 2015.

Eleven members of the managing board were also re-elected at this meeting. Mr Pinnington and Mr Wijnendaele also sit on the managing board in their new roles; Mr Döry can also participate in managing board meetings as honorary president. The federation's seven working groups, five task forces and the Formaldehyde Strategy

Group saw few changes. After his appointment as chairman, Dr Fantoni stepped down as head of the Economic Affairs working group; José Coutinho Ribeiro (Sonae Industria) is his successor. The Communications working group still does not have a head. The leadership of the new Plywood working group has also yet to be resolved.

The Plywood working group was created when a total of 15 former members of the European plywood federation *Fédération Européenne de l'Industrie du Contreplaqué* (FEIC), headquartered in Brussels, joined on 11 April. The EPF's new members are six plywood manufacturers and four national associations as ordinary members and five companies as extraordinary members. At the EPF general meeting in Vienna, another plywood manufacturer – the Czech firm *Dyas.EU a.s.*, based in Hodonín, joined the organisation. The insulated board category was strengthened with the addition of the German wood-fibre insulating materials federation *Verband Holzfaser Dämmstoffe* (VHD), based in Wuppertal, Germany. The binding agent manufacturer *EcoSynthetix Inc.*, headquartered in Burlington, Ontario, is another new extraordinary member.

The EPF general meeting in Vienna welcomed just over 120 attendees, a similar number to the last two events held in Dublin between 3 and 5 July 2013 and in Bruges, Belgium from 18 to 21 June 2014. However, it should be noted that 18 participants from the plywood industry were represented for the first time since the last joint EPF and FEIC general meeting in June 2010 in Dresden.

The involvement of the wood-based panel industry increased compared with last year to 32 (2014: 28); the fibreboard and insulated board industry was somewhat better represented with 14 (9) attendees. On the other hand, just 18 (26) participants came from the chemicals industry, 11 (16) from machinery builders, 18 (20) from associations, 2 (2) from the surfaces sector and 10 (13) from other industries. □

quarter's contract price unchanged at €359/t FOB Rotterdam on 24 June. Other companies followed in their footsteps on 25 June, allowing the contract price to be set in stone on 26 June. This rollover had looked likely in the run-up to talks. On 15 June, Methanex Corp., based in Vancouver, British Columbia, carried forward its European posted contract price (EPCP) from the second to the third quarter at €365/t FOB Rotterdam. □

## Methanol contract price left untouched in third quarter

Negotiations to hammer out the third-quarter European methanol contract price were wrapped up relatively quickly after all in the final week of June. BASF SE, based in Ludwigshafen, and Solvadis Commodity Chemicals GmbH, headquartered in Frankfurt, first agreed to leave the second

## Peruvian importer Martín gains market share

Representaciones Martín S.A.C., a merchant trading in wood-based panels, doors and furniture suppliers products that is based in Lima, Peru, has significantly strengthened its position on the Peruvian particleboard market. This growth came after it bought production machinery from the Spanish particleboard manufacturer *Tablicia S.A.*, based in Lugo, in July 2013. According to a report in the Colombian information service *Notifix*, Martín boosted its particleboard shipments to Peru by 82.1 % in a year-on-year comparison to US\$5.3m (Jan.-May 2014: 2.9m) FOB between January and May.

Total Peruvian imports fell 8.6 % to US\$29.9m (32.7m) during the same period. Martín's share of imports thus doubled to 17.6 (8.8) %. Import data published by *Notifix* based on figures from *Quintero Hermanos Ltda.*, headquartered in Bogotá, reportedly covered both raw and laminated particleboard.

The *Notifix* report indicated that other suppliers sometimes faced sharp downturns. *Novopan del Ecuador S.A.*, headquartered in Quito, managed to hold on to its position as the leading foreign supplier despite a 16.6 % slump to US\$11.7m (14.1m). Shipments made by *Paneles Arauco S.A.*, based in Santiago de Chile, decreased 7.2 % to US\$6.7m (7.2m), slightly less than overall imports. The report showed that *Maderas y Sintéticos S.A. (Masisa)*, headquartered in Santiago de Chile, recorded a 27.2 % drop to US\$4.1m (5.6m).

According to the *Notifix* report, the importer *Interforest S.A.* handled just US\$1.6m (2.1m), a fall of 24.5 %.

Other companies' shipments were down 35.3 % at US\$0.5m (0.8m). *Novopan* hence accounts for 39.3 % of Peruvian particleboard imports, *Arauco* for 22.5 %, *Martín* for 17.6 % and *Masisa* for 13.7 %. These four companies are thus responsible for 93.1 % of imports.

*Martín* received the go-ahead to acquire the assets of *Tablicia S.A.*, which had been insolvent since October 2012, at a second auction in July 2013. The company had upped its original bid of €1.5m to €2.5m, thus getting the nod over the last remaining competing bidder. The Peruvian firm subsequently restarted a particleboard mill in *Nadela*, which had a multi-opening line with an annual capacity of roughly 165,000 m<sup>3</sup> and which had been closed indefinitely in April 2012. The mill was renamed *Tableros Hispanos S.L.U.* in January 2014. □