

EPF: No replacement found yet for Ladislaus Döry

Slightly more people attended EPF general assembly

A successor for the Brussels-headquartered European Panel Federation's (EPF) president Ladislaus Döry who has been in office since June 2004 was discussed again at the organisation's general assembly. This event was held from 18 to 21 June 2014 in Bruges, Belgium. However, a final agreement was not reached.

Mr Döry wanted to step down at last year's general assembly in Dublin, Ireland after three successive, three-year terms. However, he was appointed as honorary president in Dublin after his successor in waiting, vice-president João Paulo do Santos Pinto (Sonae Industria SGPS S.A., headquartered in Maia, Portugal) withdrew his candidacy. Mr Döry had previously stated his willingness to continue performing the representative functions of the EPF president for a set period. The position of vice-president was not filled in Dublin. Instead, a variety of duties that mainly reflect the different working groups, task forces and joint working groups were split between the twelve members of the managing board.

At the Bruges meeting, the managing board appointed a working group made up of Dr. Paolo Fantoni (Fantoni S.p.A., Osoppo, Italy), Ulrich Bühler (Egger Holzwerkstoffe GmbH, St. Johann, Austria) and Bernard Thiers (Unilin bv-

ba, Wielsbeke, Belgium) to sketch out the role of the EPF president and seek nominations for new candidates. Dr Fantoni also took over the reins of the Economic Working Group from Mr Döry.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that the role of EPF president should be filled by the next EPF general assembly, which will likely take place in Switzerland in June 2015, possibly involving one or several people from the working group.

A total of 124 people registered for this year's general assembly, which was hosted by the Belgian organisation Fedustria, based in Brussels, and its members Unilin, Norbord N.V. (Genk) and Spanolux div. Balterio N.V. (Sint-Baafs-Vijve). This means that slightly more people attended than at the last editions in Krakow, Poland (100), Bordeaux, France (95) and Dublin (120).

35 (30) participants from 20 wood-based panels companies and 10 (9) delegates from 7 (5) firms in the rigid fibreboard and insulated board sector travelled to Bruges. Some 27 (21) delegates came from the chemicals industry, 16 (10) from machinery builders, 2 (4) from the surfaces industry, 20 (16) from associations and a total of 14 (12) from other sectors. □