

## Landmark Congress for EFAPCO

EFAPCO President, Nicolas Le Brun said: “Post-event feedback has been tremendously encouraging. Everyone seems to have savoured the programme content, as well as its social programme. We made a deliberate decision to embrace as wide a vision as possible. Indeed over the two days there was only one PCO speaker – and she was not an EFAPCO member. The emphasis was on information-gathering, business networking and professional education.”

Indeed, a Future Leaders Forum, organised in conjunction with IMEX, the acclaimed Frankfurt trade show, attracted some 35 young participants from Poland, Italy and Brussels. A plenary session moderated by IMEX’s Director of International Relations, Tom Hulton, proved to be as enlightening and entertaining as the rest of the sessions – and an encouraging highlight.

The congress, organised jointly by EFAPCO and BAPCO – the Belgian Association of PCOs – scored a technological “first” with an impromptu videoconference session.

At short notice, video links were set up with a snowbound David Stubbs, Head of Sustainability for the London 2012 Olympic Games. Prevented from travelling to Brussels by heavy snowfalls across England, he made his presentation on Delivering Sustainable Games from his London base.

It was made in tandem with a similarly topical report from Jan-Chrtistoph Napierski, Head of Sustainability for COP 15, the UN Climate Change Conference, which took place in Copenhagen in December.

The overall Congress philosophy on “thinking outside the box” was echoed by the social programme, which included dinner at Brussels’ new Musee Magritte Museum, a fabulous showcase of the life and work of surrealist artist Rene Magritte. Appropriately, that event was titled: Ceci n’est pas un Gala dinner”.

**Post-event information about EFAPCO 2010, including presentations and images can be found at: [www.efapco2010.eu](http://www.efapco2010.eu)**

---

***Expanding the Network***

EFAPCO now has its 11<sup>th</sup> full member. The Federation's Board welcomed The Association of Irish Professional Conference Organisers into its network at its pre-Congress meeting in Brussels.

According to President Nicolas Le Brun: "This means the Federation now embraces all national associations of PCOs operating in Europe. Future recruitment will focus on other EU countries where - with some help from EFAPCO - local PCOs form their own associations, and join in with the Federation's activities.

"Every new member association strengthens our profile within the European meetings and events sector – and enhances our drive to secure proper economic and cultural recognition for our industry from the EU, and in promoting Europe as the world's leading conference destination."

The Board approved, unanimously, a new term in office for the current Bureau – to co-ordinate the Federation's activities for another two years until May 2012.

The EFAPCO Bureau comprises: President, Nicolas Le Brun (Belgium); Vice-Presidents, Irena Sokolowska (Poland) and Helena Weinstein (Portugal); Secretary General, Sissy Lignou (Greece) and Treasurer, Katalin Matray (Hungary).

And Susan Spibey, EFAPCO's Adviser on Professional Development, has been appointed Chair of a new Special Committee on Standards with a brief including pan-European development of the initiative taken by the UK through the introduction of BS8901 on sustainable events management.

The 2010 Congress, which followed the Assembly, was organised jointly by EFAPCO and BAPCO – the Belgian Association of PCOs. BAPCO President and genial co-host, Sam van de Kerckhof said: "I was absolutely delighted that we welcomed over 180 participants from 17 countries. This record-breaking attendance was generated thanks to tremendous help from fellow BAPCO members, plus support from a strong array of sponsors."