



Assoziation der Schweizerischen Aerosolindustrie
Association suisse de l'industrie aérosol
Associazione dell'industria aerosol svizzera

58th General Meeting of the ASA (Swiss Aerosol Industry Association) in Langenthal (Switzerland)

The 58th Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Aerosol Association (ASA) was once again a very special event, as confirmed by the large number of participants who attended. This year, the members once again began with a tour of the MOTOREX company in Langenthal.

As early as 1917, pioneer Arnold Bucher began manufacturing REX leather and

floor care products in Bützberg near Langenthal. With increasing motorization, the business shifted its focus, and REX became MOTOREX in 1947. MOTOREX-BUCHER GROUP AG remains an independent family business. The diverse product range is enormous. There are more than 40 different spray products alone.



“Buying from MOTOREX means you can depend on finding the right product for every lubrication need from the company's wide product range. Our product range encompasses motor oil, gearbox oil and lubricating oil for all kinds of engines, brake fluids and greases as well as special products for the construction industry, rail and marine applications.”

In this respect, the tour of the plant was a first highlight of this event, as the discussions continued into the evening.

After the tour, the group headed to the boutique hotel and restaurant “Auberge” in Langenthal to hold the general meeting.

ASA President Roger Koller first welcomed the representatives of the member companies and determined that the meeting was quorate. Koller then presented his report for the year 2024. The president highlighted the association's various activities over the past year and made special mention of the “Circular Economy” project, an initiative launched in 2024 by Nussbaum Matzingen and the ZHAW School of Engineering in Winterthur, which has already attracted a number of partners. The aim of the project is to develop a circular recycling model for aerosol cans. Another topic was the aerosol training course planned for 2026, which will be expanded to include the topics of “recycling” and “new regulations” and made accessible to a wider audience. Other topics covered in his report included cooperation with the FEA and other national aerosol associations such as the IGA, where technical issues are discussed on a regular basis. The new ASA statutes, which were presented at last year's ASA Forum by ASA board members Dr. Martin Wenner and Urs Hauser, have come into force, according to Koller. He also mentioned that consideration had been given to the future of the ASA and its work, and that an ASA Aerosol Association working group was being planned with all member companies until 2030.

Possible scenarios for 2030 include potential mergers with other industry associations or the expansion of activities and other topics such as recycling, for example. Finally, Koller thanked everyone involved in these processes, and in particular Urs Hauser for his active work as FEA President from 2020-2024.

Urs Hauser then reported on the FEA's activities over the past year. It had been a dynamic year, marked by challenges and intense negotiations, but also by progress for our industry. Its strategic focus is based on three pillars: active involvement in legislation, providing technical expertise to decision-makers and members, and, last but not least, continuously strengthening our global network, according to Hauser. All of this makes the FEA an important voice in Europe. He added that Dario Steiner, President of the Italian Aerosol Association, was elected as the new FEA President in the fall of last year. Looking back at the key topics of the past year, one topic stood out in particular: sustainability and the circular economy. However, the new Packaging Ordinance (PPWR) was undoubtedly the main focus, said Hauser. The FEA had closely monitored these complex legislative processes for two years. An important success had been achieved: aerosols would be recognized as a separate category. What does this mean in concrete terms for companies?, asked Hauser. The new requirements will become binding in August 2026. Time is short. That is why the FEA has already drawn up documents that can serve as guidance. Our participation in the

European standardization committees is also particularly important, said Hauser. This is where the practical criteria for recycling-friendly design are laid down. Three key aspects are being considered: the specific requirements for the recycled content in plastic components, the possible introduction of deposit systems and their consequences for our products, and thirdly, the new regulations on packaging minimization and their practical feasibility. In order to do justice to this broad range of topics, the “Recycling” task force will be renamed “Packaging Waste,” Hauser emphasized. On the subject of recycling in general, Hauser said: A particular challenge remains determining a reliable, EU-wide recycling rate. That is why we are working on reliable figures that document our recycling rates and can serve as a basis for further improvements, Hauser confirmed. Another issue is plastic aerosols. Two strategic goals are being pursued consistently here: first, the complete integration of plastic aerosols into the Aerosol Dispensing Directive, and second, the initiation of an official legislative process to technically adapt this directive. The specific goal is clearly defined: “We want to ensure that plastic aerosols with a volume of more than 220 ml are also approved in the future.” The FEA Code of Practice on the recyclability of PET aerosols has already been developed to accompany this. It is a practical tool that provides important guidance today. Another topic of his speech was the new F-Gas Regulation, which will bring further restrictions. Hauser continued by saying that one topic that has gained importance recently is refillable pressure dispensers. In view of the emergence of such systems, the FEA has proactively proposed the establishment of a special task force.

The aim is to clarify the legal framework and ensure further competitive conditions for all market participants. The safety of our products remains the central concern of the FEA. According to Hauser, the increasing use of lightweight packaging and recycled materials has raised questions about mechanical stability. A new task force has been set up to address this issue. It is working on an overview of relevant test methods. The goal is to develop an FEA standard that creates comparability and ensures that the design and high safety standards of our industry are maintained even with innovative materials. In order to be able to provide well-founded answers to increasing questions about particle emissions from aerosols, the FEA has published a helpful document for members. This document provides scientifically sound answers. The Industrial Safety working group has also been reactivated. An important step here is the revision of the FEA guidelines for the safe storage of aerosols. Hauser went on to say that, with regard to the transport of our products, the FEA had achieved consistent and practical transport regulations for aerosol products. He also addressed the topic of online products—keyword: e-commerce. Here, the FEA wanted to simplify things without compromising safety. Last year, the FEA expanded its focus beyond national borders. The “International Regulations” task force systematically monitors relevant legislation in the key markets of the USA, Brazil, and the UK. This global perspective is becoming increasingly important as regulatory trends are now emerging more quickly at an international level. He then mentioned the partnership with Paris Packaging Week, which is extremely important for our industry.

Finally, Stefan Mäder, Managing Director of ASA, presented the 2024 annual financial statements and the 2024 fund accounts for approval in his report on the association's financial situation. This was followed by the audit reports and the discharge of the responsible bodies, the Executive Board, Managing Director, and auditors, which was granted unanimously.

Stefan Mäder concluded his presentation with the submission of the budget for 2025/26. This year's general meeting ended with a gourmet dinner at the legendary "Auberge" restaurant in Langenthal. Numerous discussions accompanied this culinary highlight. **More pictures on the following pages...**

