

# UFEMAT ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS

INVITATION AND  
REGISTRATION



UFEMAT



30/09-02/10/2026 • PARIS • FRANCE

Organized in  
collaboration with



FDMC  
Fédération des Distributeurs  
de Matériaux de Construction



# Programme

On behalf of **Mr Palle Thomsen**, President of UFEMAT, and **Ms Marie Arnout**, President of the French Federation of Building Materials Distributors (FDMC), and **Eldert Jan van Herk**, General Manager EURO-MAT, I am delighted to invite you to the **66th UFEMAT Congress**, to be held in **Paris, France**.

**Marnix Van Hoe**,  
Secretary-General UFEMAT



**From Wednesday 30 September to Friday 2 October 2026**



**Location: Paris, in conjunction with **BATIMAT****

Building bridges between professionals and Innovation

Participants will stay at the **Hilton Paris Opera**, an iconic landmark hotel renowned for its historic grandeur, refined elegance and prime central location in the heart of Paris.

## 2026 Theme: “Building Bridges - forever!”

In a time of economic uncertainty, geopolitical pressure and regulatory transformation, **building bridges** has never been more relevant:

- between **wholesale and industry**
- between **national federations and Europe**
- between **tradition and innovation**
- between **policy makers and market reality**

**REGISTER HERE**

## DAY 1 - Wednesday 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

### Arrival - Hilton Paris Opera

108 Rue Saint-Lazare, 75008 Paris, France

Participants will stay at the elegant Hilton Paris Opera, a landmark hotel in the heart of Paris combining more than 130 years of history with timeless luxury and contemporary comfort. Located in the vibrant Opéra district, the hotel is within easy reach of iconic attractions such as the Opéra Garnier, the Louvre Museum and the famous Galeries Lafayette. Behind its magnificent Haussmann-style façade, guests will discover refined interiors, exceptional hospitality.



**UFEMAT General Assembly**  
**EURO-MAT Workshop** (held separately)

### Evening



### UFEMAT & EURO-MAT Meet & Greet

Joint networking activity bringing together approximately 150 participants.

The Wednesday evening Welcome Reception will be held in the Hilton Paris Opera's impressive historic former railway arrival hall, offering participants an elegant and memorable setting to meet and network.



## DAY 2 - Thursday 1 OCTOBER 2026

### Theme:

*“European Compendium - From Regulation to Market Reality”*. The conference will focus on key European construction directives and regulations – both process-related and product-related – and their practical impact on the wholesale building materials sector. Contributions will include European and national federations, EuroCommerce and high-level European policymakers, addressing housing policy, construction supply chains and the strategic role of merchants in Europe.

### Venue information - Saint-Gobain Research Paris (Aubervilliers)

41 Quai Lucien Lefranc - 93300 Aubervilliers, France

The Congress will take place at Saint-Gobain Research Paris in Aubervilliers, one of the Group’s leading international R&D centres dedicated to building materials and habitat-related innovation. Bringing together researchers, engineers and experts from multiple disciplines, the centre develops advanced solutions in areas such as sustainable construction, thermal and acoustic comfort, energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Located just outside the centre of Paris, this state-of-the-art research hub perfectly reflects Saint-Gobain’s commitment to innovation, technology and the future of sustainable building.

<https://www.saint-gobain.com/en/saint-gobain-research-paris-aubervilliers-france>



**DAY 2 - Thursday 1 October 2026****09:00 - 09:15 Welcome & Opening**

**Marie Arnout**  
President  
FDMC



**Palle Thomsen**  
President  
UFEMAT



**Eldert Jan van Herk**  
General Manager  
EURO-MAT

**Part 1 - Plenary Session (Main Atrium / Auditorium Steps)****09:15 - 10:00**

The Future of Building Materials in Europe  
Saint-Gobain

**10:00 - 10:20**

Youth & Building Materials - the Future of the Sector  
UFEMAT / Young Merchants

**10:20 - 10:45**

Packaging & Sustainability (PPWR)  
Industry / Federation Speaker

**10:45 - 10:55**

Best Practises Ufemat Members

**10:55 - 11:10 Coffee Break**

**DAY 2 - Thursday 1 October 2026****Part 2 - Conference Session (Closed Meeting Room)****11:10 - 11:20**

Best Practises Ufemat Members

**11:20 - 11:50**Wholesale in Europe - "The Invisible Giant"  
EuroCommerce

*EuroCommerce will highlight why European wholesale is often described as an "invisible giant": 1.6 million enterprises, €818 billion in value added and 9.8 million people employed, with construction-related wholesale accounting for around 10% of this activity.*

**11:50 - 12:15**

European Commission Perspective

**Director Barbara Bonvissuto**

(Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SME's)

*Barbara Bonvissuto is a senior official at the European Commission, serving as the Director for "Ecosystems III: Construction, Machinery and Standardisation" within the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) since December 1, 2024. She oversees key industrial policy areas, focusing on construction, machinery, and market surveillance.*

**12:15 - 12:35**

Q&amp;A Session

**12:35 - 13:35: Light Lunch**

**DAY 2 - Thursday 1 October 2026**

**Afternoon Programme Options**

After lunch, one group will transfer directly by coach to BATIMAT. A second group will first enjoy an **exclusive guided visit of the Saint-Gobain Research Paris laboratories** and R&D facilities – approx. 1.5 hours, restricted access, no phones/no photography – before transferring by coach to BATIMAT.

**As BATIMAT Hospitality Sponsor, SEMIN Group will welcome UFEMAT participants to its stand during the visit for a dedicated “verre de l’amitié” and networking moment.**



**OPTION 1**

**BATIMAT Exhibition**

Paris Expo Porte de Versailles - Parc des Expositions  
1 Place de la Porte de Versailles - 75015 Paris, France

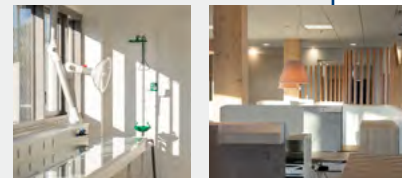


**OPTION 2**

**Saint-Gobain R&D Facilities (±1h30)**  
- Access restricted - no phones / no photography

+

**Transfer to BATIMAT Exhibition**



**Evening - Exclusive industry dinner**

The Thursday evening programme will feature an exclusive industry dinner, offering high-level networking!

Opened in 1927 in Montparnasse, La Coupole is one of Paris’s most iconic Art Deco brasseries. A historic meeting place for artists and writers such as Picasso, Hemingway and Simone de Beauvoir, it combines elegant architecture, cultural heritage and Parisian gastronomy - the perfect setting for the UFEMAT Gala Dinner.

**La Coupole - Gala Dinner Venue**  
**102 Boulevard de Montparnasse - 75014 Paris, France**



**DAY 3 - Friday 2 OCTOBER 2026**

**Morning**

**Euro-Mat General Assembly**



**EURO-MAT**  
CONNECTING THE WORLD OF CONSTRUCTION

**Visit to a Wholesale Merchant:  
Gedimat Houilles (SEFOR)**

(optional participation for EURO-MAT members)



**105 Boulevard Henri Barbusse, 78800 Houilles, France**

Founded in 1932, Gedimat Houilles (SEFOR) is one of the oldest independent building materials merchants in the Paris region. Operating from a 25,000 m<sup>2</sup> site, the company combines nearly a century of expertise with a strong focus on service, innovation and sustainability.

A member of the GEDIMAT network since 1972, Gedimat Houilles offers a complete range of building solutions, including a large materials yard, extensive timber facilities and customised processing services. The visit will give UFEMAT participants the opportunity to discover how a traditional merchant continues to evolve as a modern and sustainable partner for construction professionals.



**Afternoon**

**Informal closing lunch**

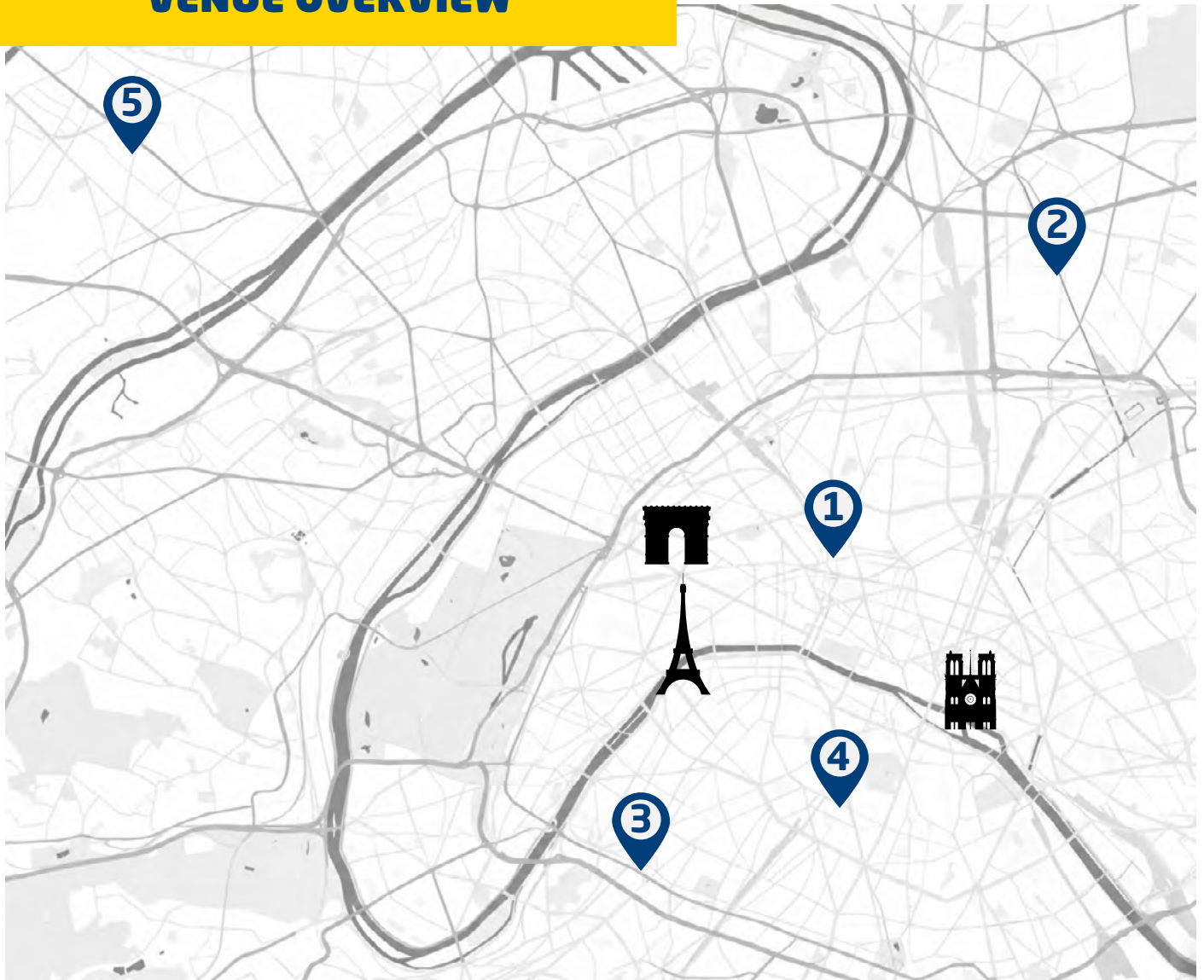
The Congress will conclude on Friday with an informal closing lunch at Café Marco Polo, located directly opposite the Hilton Paris Opera.

**121 Rue Saint-Lazare, 75008 Paris, France**



**An individually tailored partner programme will be available.**

## VENUE OVERVIEW



### 1 Hilton Paris Opera

#### ACCOMMODATION

108 Rue Saint-Lazare  
75008 Paris

**Hilton.**  
PARIS OPERA

### 2 Saint Gobain Research

#### CONGRESS VENUE

41 Quai Lucien Lefranc  
93300 Aubervilliers

  
SAINT-GOBAIN

### 3 Batimat Exhibition

#### EXHIBITION VISIT

Paris Expo Porte de Versailles  
Parc des Expositions,  
1 Place de la Porte de Versailles,  
75015 Paris

**BATIMAT**

### 4 La Coupole

#### GALA DINNER

102 Boulevard de Montparnasse  
75014 Paris

**LA COUPOLE**  
1927

### 5 Gedimat Houilles (SEFOR)

#### MERCHANT VISIT

105 Boulevard Henri Barbusse  
78800 Houilles

**Gedimat**  
Sefor

# Registration & Participation Fees

UFEMAT Congress 2026 - Paris  
From Wednesday 30 September to Friday 2 October 2026

## OPTION 0

Conference Only

**€ 550\* per person**

Includes:

- All official meetings
- Conference sessions
- Lunches
- Logistics and transfers as foreseen in the programme
- BATIMAT entry
- Gala Dinner
- Evening networking events

## OPTION 1

Conference + 1 Night Accommodation

**€ 650\* per person (double use)**  
**€ 950\* per person (single use)**

## OPTION 2

Conference + 2 Nights Accommodation

**€ 1.100\* per person (double use)**  
**€ 1.600\* per person (single use)**

**Accommodation packages include: hotel stay, breakfasts, all official meals, programme logistics, transfers and congress participation.**

## YOUNG MERCHANTS DISCOUNT

A special reduced rate applies for Young Merchants (born after 1986):  
**€ 200 discount on the applicable participation package.**

UFEMAT and EURO-MAT strongly encourage the participation of the next generation of European construction wholesale leaders.

## Registration & Invoicing

**REGISTER HERE**

Your booking will be deemed definitive once the registration form has been completed.

All invoicing and payment administration will be handled by:

**Incentivise Ltd**

(Official Congress Administration Partner)

Further payment details will be provided upon registration confirmation.

# UFEMAT thanks its partners

for their continued support in  
building a strong European  
wholesale sector.

PLATINUM Sponsor



GOLD Sponsors



SILVER Sponsor



SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION Sponsor



BATIMAT HOSPITALITY Sponsor



LE TALENT EST ENTRE VOS MAINS

# Call for Sponsors!

The **UFEMAT Congress 2026 in Paris** will once again bring together Europe's leading building materials wholesalers, federations, manufacturers and decision-makers.

To deliver a **high-level conference**, keep participation accessible and continue engaging the next generation of merchants, **the support of our partners and sponsors is essential.**

Sponsoring UFEMAT means:

- **direct visibility** among European wholesale leaders
- **positioning your brand** at the heart of Europe's construction ecosystem
- **supporting dialogue** between business, federations and policymakers
- **contributing to a strong, future-oriented European wholesale sector**

UFEMAT and EUROMAT also aim to actively encourage the **participation of young professionals**. A dedicated initiative, including reduced participation fees, will help attract and engage the next generation of industry leaders. Sponsorship opportunities will be explored to support this initiative.

**Detailed sponsorship packages and partnership opportunities are available.**

**For more information, please contact:**

Marnix Van Hoe

Secretary-General UFEMAT

[marnix@ufemat.eu](mailto:marnix@ufemat.eu) [marnix@beta-cc.eu](mailto:marnix@beta-cc.eu)



Follow us on LinkedIn!  
**@UFEMAT**

**UFEMAT vzw**

Altitude II

Brusselsesteenweg 524 B 6

B-1731 Zellik

T. 32-(0)2 466 24 83 | F 32-(0)2 463 26 46



**UFEMAT**



**30/09-02/10/2026 • PARIS • FRANCE**

Organized in  
collaboration with



**FDMC**  
Fédération des Distributeurs  
de Matériaux de Construction