

UFEMAT ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS

NEWSLETTER



UFEMAT

66 TH
UFEMAT
CONGRESS

30/09-02/10/2026 • PARIS • FRANCE

Organized in
collaboration with



FDMC
Fédération des Distributeurs
de Matériaux de Construction

INCLUDES INVITATION
AND REGISTRATION

The logo for the 66th UFEMAT Congress 2026 Paris is presented in a white-bordered box. It is divided into three main sections. The left section features the European Union flag (a circle of twelve gold stars on a blue background) with a white outline of a house in the center, and the word "UFEMAT" in white capital letters on a blue rectangular background below. The middle section has the large number "66" in white, with "TH UFEMAT CONGRESS" in yellow and white text to its right. Below the "66" is a yellow silhouette of a Parisian skyline including the Eiffel Tower and various buildings. At the bottom of this section, a yellow bar contains the text "30/09-02/10/2026 • PARIS • FRANCE" in black. The right section is white and contains the text "Organized in collaboration with" in black, followed by a stylized green and blue icon of buildings, and the acronym "FDMC" in large blue letters. Below "FDMC" is the full name "Fédération des Distributeurs de Matériaux de Construction" in small black text.

UFEMAT CONGRESS 2026 PARIS


Building Bridges - forever!



Building bridges in Europe since 1958

Since 1958, UFEMAT has brought together the European building materials sector across national borders. **At a time when the geopolitical situation is creating increasing uncertainty, supply chain challenges, and significant differences in national frameworks, the need for bridge-building is greater than ever.**

UFEMAT provides the framework that enables us to stand together in addressing the challenges affecting the entire value chain and to turn shared interests into shared action. We are stronger when we stand together than when we stand alone, and this is exactly why cooperation across countries as well as member organizations is crucial. By coordinating our perspectives and sharing experiences, we strengthen both our influence and our ability to develop solutions that work in practice – for the benefit of the entire sector. At the same time, we ensure that progress is driven collectively, and that every part of the value chain is able to keep pace.



A key part of this work has been to unite the sector and establish a shared understanding of conditions and challenges. **When we share knowledge, experience, and direction across countries and organizations, we do not only strengthen the sector's influence today - it future-proofs generations.**

This has become even more important as European regulation has grown increasingly complex, as we see for example with the EUDR. **Here, it becomes clear how important it is to stand together in ensuring solutions that can be implemented in practice and that take the entire value chain into account.** The goal must never be lost in bureaucracy. That is why UFEMAT also works to ensure that we save forests with common sense – through solutions that are implementable and proportionate – and not through unnecessary administrative burdens that risk affecting especially smaller actors and thereby weakening the entire value chain.

In December 2025, UFEMAT Secretary-General Marnix Van Hoe visited Copenhagen for a working meeting with President Palle Thomsen to prepare UFEMAT's 2026 programme and priorities.



This long-term cooperation was clearly highlighted in Paris, when FDMC – the French association of building materials merchants – celebrated its 90th anniversary. **On this occasion, the UFEMAT flag was formally handed over as a symbol of continuity, shared European responsibility, and as the official announcement of the UFEMAT Conference in Paris in 2026.** The handover underlined the tradition of rotating host countries and of carrying the community forward across borders.



Following dialogue with members, it has been decided to hold the **UFEMAT Conference in Paris from 30 September to 2 October 2026, in connection with BATIMAT week.**

The conference will be a key meeting point for member organizations and an opportunity to strengthen cooperation across markets and shared challenges. **In a time of growing uncertainty and increasing requirements, a strong community is not merely an advantage – it is a necessity.** That is why we are strongest when we stand together.



Warm regards,

Palle Thomsen
President
UFEMAT



Dear UFEMAT members, partners and colleagues,

The European construction distribution sector stands at a decisive moment. With more than 160,000 wholesale businesses across the EU, our industry is not only a backbone of the European construction economy, but also a major employer and a critical link between policy ambitions and on-the-ground reality.

EU legislation is reshaping how we operate, from sustainability and digitalisation to compliance, workforce and supply chain resilience. These developments bring challenges, but also opportunities. The key question we face together is clear: how can European organisations, in close cooperation with EU institutions, help our members navigate this growing regulatory landscape while remaining competitive, profitable and attractive employers?

This joint UFEMAT & EURO-MAT Congress in Paris is a strong signal of alignment. By combining our networks, expertise and collective voice, we can engage more effectively with European policymakers and ensure that legislation supports innovation, entrepreneurship and long-term business continuity in construction distribution.

Paris, as a major European economic and construction hub, provides the ideal setting to exchange perspectives, share best practices and shape a forward-looking agenda. One that safeguards the workforce of our sector while preparing our industry for the future.

We look forward to an open, constructive and truly European dialogue.



Kind regards,

Eldert Jan van Herk
General Manager
EURO-MAT



EURO-MAT
CONNECTING THE WORLD OF 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.



Hilton
PARIS OPERA



UFEMAT General Assembly
EURO-MAT Workshop (held separately)

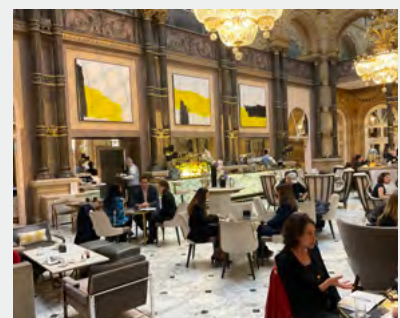
Evening



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&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

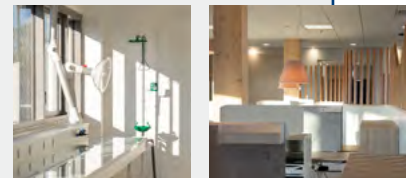


OPTION 2

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 m² 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

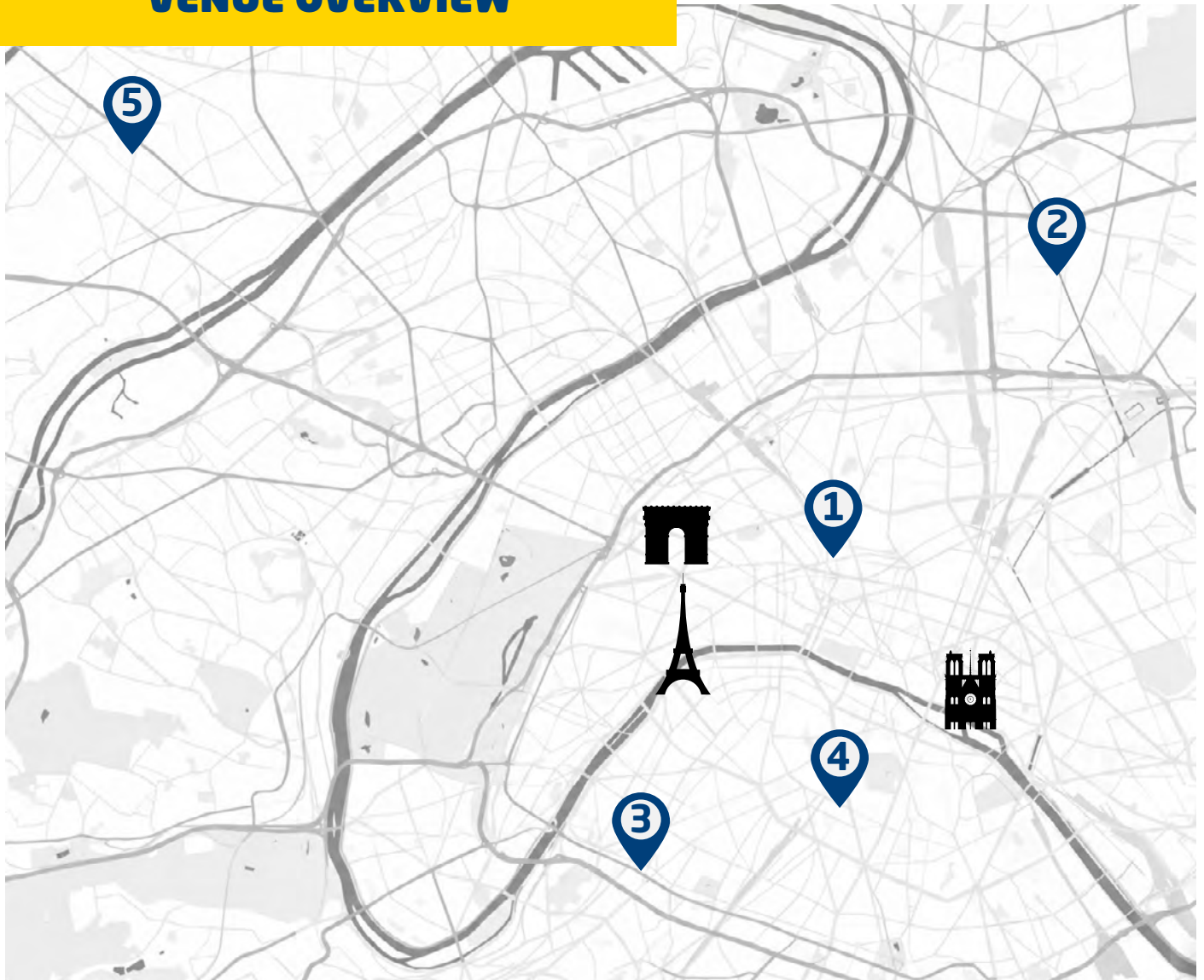
The Congress will conclude on Friday with an informal closing lunch at Café Marco Polo, located directly opposite the Hilton Paris Opera.

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.

Dear UFEMAT members, partners and friends,

We are pleased to officially announce that the **UFEMAT Congress 2026** will take place in Paris, one of Europe's most influential economic and construction hubs.

The official handover to Paris took place during the celebration of the 90th anniversary of FDMC in Paris, and was performed by Marie Arnout, President of FDMC and Gedimat business owner in Paris, together with former UFEMAT President Gérard Spire, marking the transition from the UFEMAT Congress 2025 in Milan to UFEMAT 2026 in Paris.

The UFEMAT Congress 2026 will be organised as **a joint UFEMAT & EURO-MAT event**, reinforcing cooperation between both European organisations and strengthening the collective voice of construction distribution in Europe.

Kind regards,

Marnix Van Hoe
Secretary-General
UFEMAT



TRUSTED ADVISOR
TO THE BUILDING INDUSTRY



Wholesale: a central pillar of the European economy

The building materials wholesale sector remains a **key stabilising force** in the construction value chain. As highlighted during the **EuroCommerce interventions at the Milan Congress**, wholesale is not only economically significant, it is **indispensable**.



Our sector's added value is clear and measurable:

- **Storage and logistics capacity**
- **Product availability and proximity**
- **Financial support to contractors and customers**
- **Professional advice and expertise**
- **Service and after-sales support**
- **Experience and guidance in both B2B and B2C decision-making environments**

Many wholesalers have been standing strong for **over 100 years**. This longevity is not coincidence; it is proof of **relevance, resilience and trust**.



The same applies to our **national federations**, some with decades of history, such as **FDMC**, which celebrated its **90th anniversary in Paris last year**. They remain essential bridges between businesses, markets and policymakers.

We are here to stay!

Gedimat Houilles (SEFOR), nearly a century of expertise in building materials distribution



As part of the UFEMAT Congress programme, participants will have the opportunity to visit **Gedimat Houilles (SEFOR)** on **Friday 2 October 2026**, a long-established building materials merchant located just outside Paris.

With almost a century of history and a strong focus on service, innovation and sustainability, Gedimat Houilles offers a compelling example of how an independent merchant can evolve while remaining deeply rooted in its local market.

From timber yard to leading building materials merchant

The origins of the company date back to **1932**, when the business started as a **forestry operation and sawmill under the name Schwartz-Haumont SEFOR**.

In **1955**, the company took the form it has today and continued to expand its activities in the construction supply sector. A major milestone followed in **1972**, when the company joined the **GEDIMAT cooperative network**, becoming one of its **oldest members**.

The company has also played an important role within the network itself: from **1977 to 1991**, its director even served as **president of the GEDIMAT group**, demonstrating the long-standing influence of SEFOR within the French construction distribution sector.

Today, after more than **70 years of activity as a building materials merchant**, Gedimat Houilles continues to combine tradition with forward-looking investments.



A complete building solutions hub- 25,000 m²

Gedimat Houilles operates a **25,000 m² site**, offering an integrated environment where professionals and private customers can find everything they need for construction and renovation projects.

The site includes:

- A **2,000 m² self-service store** with around **13,000 products in stock**, serving a wide range of building trades
- A **large materials yard** dedicated to structural and finishing materials
- An **8,000 m² timber yard**, reflecting the company's historic expertise in wood
- A **workshop for machining, processing and customised production** for joinery and interior projects
- A **showroom area** presenting building and finishing solutions

This "all-in-one" concept allows contractors and builders to access products, advice and services in a single location.



Timber expertise and sustainable sourcing

Wood has always been a core activity for the company. Gedimat Houilles offers a **broad range of solid wood, panels and derived wood products**, supported by modern processing facilities.

To ensure responsible sourcing, the timber activities are **PEFC-certified**, guaranteeing that the wood products come from sustainably managed forests.



Services designed for construction professionals

Beyond product supply, Gedimat Houilles differentiates itself through a wide range of services designed to support construction professionals on site:

- **Mobile concrete and mortar batching truck** enabling rapid on-site supply
- **Custom machining and production workshop** for wood and joinery projects
- **Professional recycling facility** managing **12 waste streams**, supporting circular construction practices
- **Dedicated logistics and delivery services** adapted to construction site constraints
- **E-commerce platform** providing daily access to product information and ordering

These services allow the company to position itself not simply as a supplier, but as a **partner delivering practical solutions for building projects**.



People at the heart of the business

Gedimat Houilles places strong emphasis on its teams. Employees are continuously trained in **new construction standards, energy performance and renovation techniques**, ensuring that customers receive professional advice adapted to evolving regulations and technologies.

The company also actively invests in **training the next generation**, welcoming apprentices and trainees into its teams and supporting local community initiatives in sports, culture and associations.

Looking ahead

Even after nearly **100 years of history**, Gedimat Houilles continues to invest in the future. Current development projects include:

- A new **"Floors & Bathrooms" concept showroom**
- Expanded **timber construction and processing capabilities**
- Investments in **energy efficiency and self-produced electricity**

These initiatives reflect the company's ambition to remain a **modern, innovative and sustainable building materials merchant** for decades to come.



Don't miss the opportunity to visit Gedimat Houilles (SEFOR) on day 3 of the UFEMAT Conference - Friday 2 October 2026!



UFEMAT: a European bridge since 1958!

Since **1958**, UFEMAT has played a crucial role as a **European platform for cooperation, dialogue and representation**. Today, as Europe gains even more importance in regulation and market structuring, UFEMAT's mission is stronger than ever.

In **2026**, UFEMAT will initiate a practical European **"compendium" of regulations** relevant to the building materials wholesale sector:

- clear
- structured
- business-oriented

A structured, easy-to-use overview of the **key European process-related and product-related rules and regulations**, translated into **practical business implications** for wholesalers.

Participants will receive a post-event practical booklet summarising the key EU directives discussed during the conference.

From regulation to reality: the role of wholesale in Europe's construction future!

A strong focus will be placed on:

- **European legislation impacting wholesale building materials in 2026**
- market realities versus regulatory ambitions
- the strategic role of wholesale in Europe's construction future

UFEMAT is also in discussion with **EuroCommerce** and the **European Commission** to welcome a **high-level European speaker** who will provide a **status quo on key legislative priorities** affecting our sector.



The construction sector: a key player in the circular economy for plastics

Plastic packaging plays a crucial role in the construction sector.

It offers technical and economic advantages, but at the same time generates a significant amount of packaging waste. **In the coming months, European regulations will profoundly change the way the sector manages this packaging.**



Reuse: anticipating the end of single-use packaging

By **2030**, an increasing proportion of transport packaging will have to be reusable, with a target of at least **40%** for transport within the European Union. **This means, in particular, planning now for the transition from single-use pallets to reusable systems.** This obligation also applies to **stretch film, shrink wrap and strapping** used for transport within Member States and across the European Union.

Recycled plastic: securing your future supplies

The regulation also imposes **minimum percentages of recycled content in plastic packaging**, which will reach **35% for many applications by 2030.** **Establishing partnerships today with suppliers who can guarantee these recycled rates** will help secure volumes and prices, while reinforcing a more sustainable image with customers.





A recycling market under pressure

From the **end of 2026**, the **export of plastic waste from the European Union to non-OECD countries will be banned**. However, **around 40% of industrial plastic packaging waste is currently exported to these destinations**. This includes **coloured palletising films and hoods**, for which it is difficult to find outlets in Europe. This waste can only be used to produce **dark granules**, which are mainly used for bin bags or tarpaulins.

As a major user of plastic films and hoods, **the construction industry has real power to stimulate European recycling** by minimising the printing or colouring of these types of packaging. **Alternative solutions exist**, such as removable sleeves for branding and more easily recyclable materials that facilitate local plastic recycling.

The new regulations transform plastic packaging from a regulatory constraint into a strategic opportunity for the construction sector. Companies that **start planning today** to reuse their packaging, secure access to recycled plastic and adapt their choice of materials will be at the forefront: **they will reduce their costs, limit the risks associated with waste exports and strengthen their position** in a market where environmental performance is becoming a decisive criterion.



Kind regards,

Francis Huysman
Managing Director
Valipac



Construction and Building Materials Wholesale: Preparing for Europe's 2026 Legislative Landscape

The construction and building materials wholesale sector plays a central role in the European economy, representing around **10% of all wholesale enterprises in Europe** and contributing significantly to growth, employment, and value creation across the internal market. As we enter 2026, the sector faces changes in the European regulatory landscape, with existing EU legislation in place and new laws and initiatives approaching. The European Commission's objective of sustainable prosperity and competitiveness, driven by initiatives in energy transition and the circular economy, will further shape how construction wholesalers operate.



In particular, **the adoption of the Commission's Omnibus I simplification package** is on its way, which aims to reduce administrative burdens and reporting obligations under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), while also better aligning both frameworks. In addition, the **European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)** has been postponed by another year and partially simplified.

Nevertheless, requirements affecting the import and trade of e.g. timber, paper, and related products remain highly relevant and require careful implementation by affected wholesalers.



The shift towards a circular economy is reinforced by the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), introducing new obligations on packaging reduction, recycling, and design and labelling. This underlines the growing need for coordination across the entire value chain. In parallel, the EU's climate policy, notably the "Fit for 55" package, continues to impact the sector. Construction wholesalers must prepare for, among others, higher energy performance requirements, rising energy costs and carbon pricing.

To support members in navigating these developments, **EuroCommerce will address these key regulatory and policy developments at the UFEMAT Conference on 1 October 2026 in Paris**, providing practical insights and opportunities for dialogue on maintaining competitiveness while meeting Europe's sustainability objectives.



[Support Europe's Wholesalers](#)
#AppreciateWholesale



Vanessa Kassem
Adviser for International
Trade and European Policy
EuroCommerce



Mario Verduci: a life dedicated to construction distribution

On **31 December 2025**, **Mr. Mario Verduci** will conclude his mandate representing the construction trade sector at **European, national and regional level**.

Since the founding of **Federcomated** in **November 1983**, Mario Verduci has been a constant and committed presence at every forum, meeting and working group dedicated to defending and advancing the interests of construction materials distributors. Throughout his long career, he has never lost sight of one essential principle: **our sector is European by nature, and so is its responsibility**.

Mario Verduci has made **significant social and technical contributions** to numerous European initiatives and legislative measures impacting the construction distribution sector. His expertise, continuity and deep understanding of market realities have been highly valued, most recently in relation to **Regulation (EU) 3110/2024**, which establishes harmonised rules for the marketing of construction products.

Beyond his technical contributions, Mario Verduci has been a **true ambassador of dialogue and cooperation**, always present, always constructive, and always committed to strengthening the role of wholesale distribution within the European construction ecosystem.

Together with a small number of long-standing colleagues, he has been among the **most consistent and dedicated participants in UFEMAT activities and congresses** over the decades – a presence that has helped shape both the organisation and the spirit of UFEMAT.

As he enters a new chapter, UFEMAT wishes to express its **deep appreciation and gratitude** for his lifelong commitment, his European vision and his unwavering dedication to our sector.

Thank you, Mario.



Building Bridges in Scotland: BMF Burns Supper at Loch Lomond

On Friday, 23 January 2026, UFEMAT Secretary-General Marnix Van Hoe attended **the Builders Merchants Federation (BMF) Burns Supper 2026**, held at **the iconic Cameron House on Loch Lomond**. The annual Burns Supper is the **most prestigious event of the BMF in Scotland**, bringing together leading figures from the building materials distribution sector in a setting that combines tradition, culture and networking at the highest level.

The evening followed the classic Scottish tradition, featuring a formal three-course supper, the ceremonial piping and addressing of the haggis, poetry inspired by Robert Burns, and traditional Scottish music and dancing. Guests observed the customary dress code, with black tie attire complemented by kilts and tartan.

Beyond its ceremonial character, the event offered valuable opportunities for **informal exchange and strengthening ties between European merchant organisations**, perfectly reflecting UFEMAT's ongoing mission of **building bridges across borders**, cultures and markets.

According to Builders' Merchants News, the BMF's special guests at the Burns Night supper included Marnix Van Hoe, Director General of UFEMAT, representing merchant and supplier organisations across Europe - a testament to the strong engagement between European and UK merchant communities.





Join us in Paris!

To make the **UFEMAT Congress 2026 in Paris** a success, we urgently call upon:

- **Sponsors**
- **Participants**
- **Partners**

Paris and BATIMAT offer a unique international stage **to connect, influence and build bridges for the future of our sector.**

Let us build those bridges - together.

Registration and participation details can be found on page 14. We encourage early confirmation to secure your preferred participation package and accommodation option.

We look forward to welcoming you in Paris.

Kind regards,

UFEMAT Executive Team

Building Bridges - forever!

Marnix Van Hoe
Secretary-General
UFEMAT



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 marnix@beta-cc.eu



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@UFEMAT

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