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Silesian Construction Chamber Gala

November 15, 2013 saw the Silesian Opera in Bytom hold the 16th Gala of the Silesian Construction Chamber.

During this event enterprises, institutions, local governments and prominent individuals involved in the development of construction in Silesia were honoured. Director of the Silesian Opera in Bytom, Mr Tadeusz Serafin, was one of the winners of the Silesian Way of Building 2013.

The Opera Director received the title of Friend of Silesian Building next to Prof Marian Zembala from the Silesian Centre for Heart Diseases. This title is given to persons not directly related to construction, but having a big impact thereon

The event brought along the awards in the following categories: Grand Building Prize, Silesian Building and Economy Authority and Silesian Construction Personality. The Prize and the Title of Silesian Building and Economy Authority was awarded to Mr Stefan Dzienniak - CEO of Polish Steel Association. The organization of the competition was to promote investment and economic attractiveness of the Silesian province.

At the ceremony, the President of the Silesian Construction Chamber, Mr Tadeusz Wnuk, thanked all members for their enormous contribution to the activities of Silesian economic self-government. Among the guests were the Deputy Minister of Transport, Construction and Maritime Economy, Mr Janusz Żbik, Marshal of the Silesian Province, Mr Mirosław Sekuła, Deputy Governor Andrzej Pilot, MPs and representatives of local authorities.

Energy Seminar

On November 8, the Board of HIPH together with Energomix Sp. z o.o., Poland's largest energy consulting firm, organized a seminar on Effective Management of Energy Costs.

The seminar discussed ways to facilitate efficient purchase and use of electricity and gas. In the first part, purchasing strategies were presented to allow for the purchase of cheaper energy. The second part presented methods for optimizing energy costs based on the reduction of transmission costs.

In the following part, the focus was on electricity consumption reduction and monitoring. Furthermore, the problem of obtaining additional benefits was raised by way of obtaining an energy efficiency improvement certificate.

CDD ESTA Directors Committee Meet

On 22-23 November in London, a meeting of the Committee of Directors of the European Steel Tube Association (CDD ESTA) was held, with the Secretary General, Mr Patrick Martinache, presenting the Activities Report 2013 and the proposed ESTA budget for 2014.

Representatives of different countries - members of ESTA - discussed the overall economic situation and its impact on the tubular industry. In most EU countries the situation is difficult for pipes & tubes manufacturers.

EU pipe production in the first half of 2013 amounted to 6.5 million tonnes, down 9 % as compared to the first half of 2012. Current AD proceedings were discussed as conducted by the EU and market protection measures implemented by third countries. Proposals were presented for new anti-dumping and anti-subsidy cases.

Debated was also the granting market economy status to China, draft trade defence instrument modernisation proposed by the European Commission and the signing of a free trade agreement between the EU and the U.S.

FOEEiG Electricity and Gas Buyers Forum and CO₂ Forum Congress

26-27 November saw in Łódź the 6th Programme and Organisation Congress of FOEEiG and Forum CO₂ being held. During the Congress Activities Reports of FOEEiG and Forum CO₂ were discussed including budgets of both forums. The advisory of Elżanowski Cherka i Wspólnicy and Viewpoint Group reported on most important activities undertaken as part of their retainers with FOEEiG. Later in the session new governing bodies were elected with new position on following issues developed:

- potential threats to the functioning of energy-intensive industries in connection with the planned amendment of the ETS Directive,
- risks to energy-intensive sectors from carbon leakage,
- EU climate policy with a view to progressive tightening of the CO₂ reduction targets by 2050,
- evolution of EU policy trending to promote energy efficiency,
- expectations regarding the climate change negotiations during the COP19 climate summit in Warsaw,
- potential impact of modifications of the IED provisions on the domestic industry.

Trade Directors Forum

On 5 to 6 December 2013 Ustroń held another Trade Directors Forum. The Chamber updated on the market situation for steel, coke and refractory materials.

The state of protective procedures in the steel and raw materials trade was discussed as were the current actions against unfair intra-Community VAT fraud schemes for steel products. The representatives of the member companies presented their assessments of the current situation in the steel market and their forecast for the first quarter of 2014. Their statements let conclude that in the coming months a gradual improvement of the steel market could be expected.

EU USA Trade Agreements

2 December saw the Ministry of Economy in Warsaw held a consultative meeting on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership agreement between EU and USA.

On 10.12.2013, Polish Steel Association prepared and submitted to the Ministry the sectoral position on this issue.

IED Directive Workshop

On 11 December 2013 in Katowice HIPH organized the IED Directive Environmental Law Changes Workshop during

which representatives of the Ministry of the Environment

(Ms Ewa Pol-Sekuła and Mr Marcin Wiśniewski) elaborated on the main issues of IED and its transposition into Polish law. In Poland, the IED Directive is transposed by the Draft Law Amending the Law on Environmental Protection and Other Laws, which is now on the agenda of the Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers and is to be addressed to the Council of Ministers towards the end of 2013. The earliest possible timing for the bill to be adopted is in the first quarter of 2014. The transitional provisions of the Act specify that after the passing of the bill, companies will have four years to comply to its requirements.

Session of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee "Steel"

On 12 December 2013, representatives of HIPH attended the subsequent plenary meeting of the Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee "Steel" in Brussels. The meeting was attended by representatives of:

- employers of the EU steel industry, represented by EUROFER and its member organisations;
- trade unions represented by industrialAll and representatives of national trade union organisations.

The European Commission was represented by Mr M. Wisniewski (DG EMPL) and Ms A. Kozłowska (DG Enterprise).

EUROFER and Syndex presented the current macro-economic standing of the EU economy and the EU steel market.

The Activities Report 2013 was provided by Working Groups for Structural Changes and Industrial Safety.

The agenda of the Social Dialogue Committee for the years 2014 and 2015 was presented.

Representatives of the European Commission elaborated on: action plan for a competitive and sustainable steel industry in Europe and the TDI modernization project. EUROFER and industriAll, social partners of the European steel industry, presented a pre-agreed common position on priorities regarding the Action Plan for the steel industry (supra).

New Year's Greetings

For the new year we would like to extend our best wishes to you:

May this year be a time of professional success and realization of personal goals.

The Board, Management and Staff of Polish Steel Association

