

# European Fastener Distribution Conference, Europe/U.S./Taiwan Reps Gather Together



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## /// Embracing New Challenges in the European Fastener Industry ///

From September 24 to 27, 2025, the 8th EFDA Conference took place at The Hotel Brussels, Belgium. This year's theme was "Shaping Tomorrow: Europe's Fastener Distributor Industry in Motion," marking an important moment to reflect on the past and look forward to the future as the EFDA celebrates its 25th anniversary. Representatives from across Europe and the world gathered to discuss economic and political challenges facing the industry and future strategies.

**EFDA President Mr. Andreas Bertaggia** opened the conference stating, "This year's meeting is held in Brussels, Belgium, the heart of European political and regulatory affairs, which is highly significant. Since its founding in 2000, EFDA has connected fastener distributor associations and independent distributors across Europe to become an important platform for integrating industry interests." Bertaggia emphasized that this is a historic moment. Facing variable international trade policies including the CBAM, anti-dumping measures, and sanctions on Russia, EFDA has demonstrated strong coordination and adaptability by actively assisting members through working groups and committees to meet these challenges. He pointed out that EFDA does not merely react to changes but actively ensures that members can confidently respond to regulatory and market shifts, maintaining industry flexibility and competitiveness. Over the next 25 years, EFDA will continue to provide support and collaborative opportunities to bolster the resilience and growth of the European fastener distribution industry. Additionally, Bertaggia specially invited distinguished speakers from Europe, Asia, and the USA to share economic and political trends and chart a roadmap for the industry.

This conference was not only an event for industry exchange but also a platform for member companies to build cooperative networks and share the latest market information and policies. The conference included multiple working committee sessions and task force meetings, deeply discussing and practically applying the CBAM templates and anti-dumping measures. EFDA also provided members with regular updates and training to help them cope with increasingly complex regulatory requirements. Special networking dinners and cocktail parties were arranged to enhance member interaction and cooperation. Through these ongoing efforts, EFDA ensures the European fastener distribution industry moves steadily forward amid globalization and environmental changes.

## Distinguished Invited Guests

The conference agenda featured keynote speeches and exchange sessions focusing on the impact of European and global economic and political situations on the fastener industry, and explored leadership and adaptability strategies for the future business environment. Key speakers and topics included:



### Paolo Pozzi — President of the European Industrial Fasteners Institute (EIFI)

Pozzi is CEO of the Agrati Group and a senior executive in the fastener manufacturing sector, focusing on advancing European manufacturing technology and international competitiveness. Topic: "Update on the European Fastener Manufacturers Industry."





**Sam Potolicchio — Professor of Leadership and Political Communication at Georgetown University, USA, and President of the Preparing Global Leaders Forum**

Dedicated to global leadership cultivation and organizational change. Topic: "Leadership in a Globalized Economy: Navigating Complexity and Change."



**Lúcio Vinhas de Souza — Director of Economics Department and Chief Economist of BusinessEurope**

With over 20 years of experience in EU economic policy and international cooperation, he focuses on European economic governance and industrial strategy. Topic: "The State of The Union: Where Does the EU Stand Economically and Politically?"



**Alexander Börsch — Chief Economist and Director of Research at Deloitte Germany**

With expertise in European macroeconomics and geopolitical analysis, assisting organizations to grasp global trends and adjust strategies. Topic: "Economic Outlook: Europe's Geopolitical. And Competitiveness Challenges."



**Arthur Chiang — Chairman of Taiwan Fastener Trading Association**

Chiang leads the Taiwanese precision fastener manufacturing and trade community to promote industry consensus, strengthen technical exchange, and expand international markets, continuously enhancing Taiwan's industry competitiveness. Topic: "Current Status of the Taiwan Fastener Industry."

/// Members of EFDA ///



**European Fastener Distributor Association, covering multiple national member associations and independent companies, with over 2,500 distributors and an annual turnover exceeding €1.5 billion.**



Asociación de Distribuidores Españoles de Fijaciones, a Spanish fastener distributors association with 12 members, focusing on promoting cooperation among importers and suppliers in Spain and improving adaptation to European standards and regulations.



British & Irish Association of Fastener Distributors, established for over 70 years, balancing interests between local manufacturers and distributors, with over 100 members actively addressing Brexit, anti-dumping, and CBAM challenges.



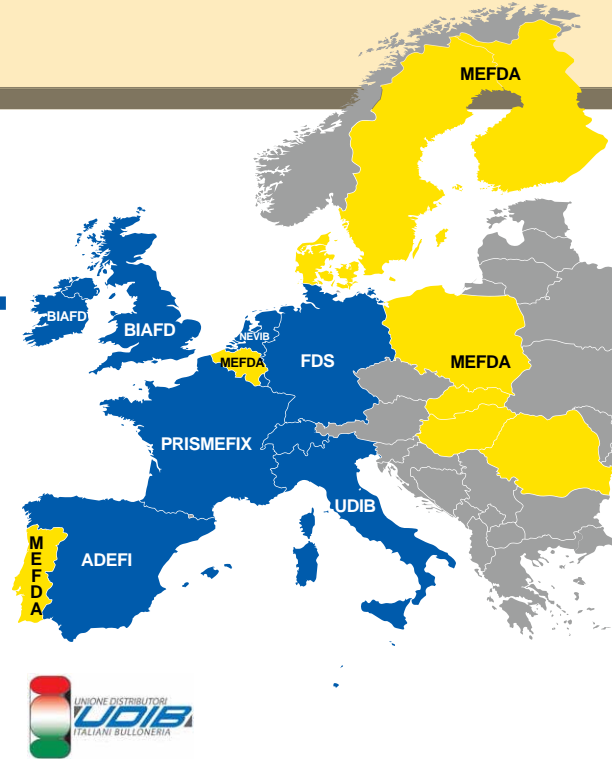
Fachverband des Schrauben-Großhandels e.V., a German fastener wholesale association, the largest fastener distributor group in Germany, covering most major wholesalers, focusing on anti-dumping and standardization, with a youth professional group named Young FDS.



Nederlandse Vereniging Van Importeurs van Bevestigingsmaterialen en Aanverwante Industriële Producten, a Dutch association for fastener and related industrial products importers, advocating free trade principles and actively participating in EU policy formulation.



Association des Distributeurs Français Spécialistes en Eléments de Fixations, a French fastener specialist distributor association, founded in 1987, promoting experience sharing and policy tracking within the French distribution market; also a founding member of EFDA.



Unione Distributori Italiani Bulloneria, an Italian bolt distributors union, founded in 1976, providing a common voice for Italian fastener wholesalers, advancing industry policy and generational transition with a youth group UDIB YOUNG.

**MEFDA**  
**'More EFDA'**

A subgroup established specifically for importers and distributors from European countries lacking a national distributor association, currently with 16 members from 8 countries, actively involved in EFDA affairs.

