



‘AIE and GCP Europe Joint Installers Summit 2015 in Edinburgh - Exchanging the future challenges on the Contractors’ market.

Brussels, 14 September 2015 – From 10-12 September, the Association for Electrical Contractors [AIE] and their mechanical partners from GCP Europe convened in Edinburgh for the Joint Installers Summit, with a conference and networking possibilities during the social programme.

On Thursday the AIE held its annual Strategic forum as its name says, focusing on the AIE’s strategy and challenges for the future. Starting off with sector statistics confirming that **AIE represents 40% of the total 358.000 Electrical Contracting Companies** within the whole electrical sector and 82% of the 1.5 million total workforce, the General Secretary continued with market segment statistics. **The delegates had then a brainstorming session on the strategic issues the AIE should focus on and their perception of AIE’s added value.**

To close down this forum a **demo was given on the brand new and reshaped AIE’s website, put on-line during the Conference days.**

The Conference day was preceded by the fruitful Statutory General Assembly reporting on all AIE’s activities by the President, the General Secretary and the Task Forces. During the lunch and afternoon, the AIE had the chance to hear and interact with Mr Fergus Ewing, the Minister of Business, Energy and Tourism of Scotland addressing the role and competence of installers in a developing technological world wherein traditional energy sources are changing.

Mr Jonathan Astwood, Head of the Scottish Government’s Building Standards Division Practice Unit, continued with his report on the Approved Certifier Scheme.

The lively third speaker **Mr Rudi Klein**, Chief Executive of the UK Specialist Engineering Contractors Group emphasized the fact that **80% of the installers is not involved at the early planning and design stage, which costs a huge amount of money because of re-designing each project.** Also **Project bank accounts (PBA) and licensing schemes were explained** and presented as extremely important to avoid payment and competence problems. ‘We need to urgently rethink construction’, he said.

To wind up the business programme the Delegates enjoyed a fabulous gala dinner in the wonderful castle of Edinburgh.....

Furthermore, AIE warmly thanks Select, the Scottish electrical contractors association, for organizing a splendid event, inspiring the participants and their partners with a social programme that led from the golf court to the City Chambers and the stunning hill castle, a stroll on the Royal Mile and a visit to the Royal Palace of Holyrood.



Shaking hands:
Mr Marcel Engels, President GCP Europe (left)
and Mr Allan Littler, President AIE (right)