



**EIFI** EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL  
FASTENERS INSTITUTE

# A Successful General Assembly

The EIFI General Assembly 2025 was held from 8 to 10 May in Seville, Spain, it was very well attended and, as ever, it was a great opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing.

In the beautiful frames of the city and the Only You Hotel, EIFI had guests from worldwide associations, speakers and entrepreneurs from the automotive and the construction industry, geopolitics, economics.

**President Paolo Pozzi** went through the 2025 activities of the Institute which were much intensified from the institutional point of view, with constant dialogue with European authorities to advocate for the interests of the fastener industry. As known, Europe has launched a range of targeted actions to address the structural challenges facing our sector but the limitations of EU governance models remain evident often proving too slow to keep pace with market demands.

The manufacturing industry, particularly the automotive sector, is under growing pressure, and needs fast, concrete and coordinated solutions. The success of future initiatives will hinge on the ability to overcome rigid procedures and ideologies.

**Wolfgang Scheiding**, Chairman of the Automotive Market Group gave a picture of the worldwide economic situation with focus on automotive production and sales and fasteners outlook. His presentation was followed by an interesting speech from **Mikel Lorente**, CTO, ACICAE - Basque Automotive Cluster & AIC - Automotive Intelligence Center talking about the electrification strategies in the automotive sector and fasteners on BEV with focus on battery systems.

**Ramon Ceravalls**, Chairman of the General Industry & Distribution Market Group underlined that the specific activity of his operational Group is dedicated to helping members stay competitive by sharing key updates on regulations, sustainability, and market trends in the construction sector, the second largest market for fasteners after automotive. **Josep R Fontana** of ITeC - Institut de Tecnologia de la Construcció de Catalunya gave in fact an insightful presentation on the EU construction market outlook, which after the negative parenthesis of years 2023 and 2024 will grow discretely and slowly.



▲ Paolo Pozzi



▲ Wolfgang Scheiding



▲ Mikel Lorente



▲ Ramon Ceravalls



▲ Josep R Fontana



▲ Hans Führlbeck



▲ Massimiliano Testa



▲ Inès Van Lierde



▲ Gian Marco Dalpane



▲ Daniel Walker



Our General Manager **Hans Führbeck** summarized the good job done by the Market Groups and the Operating Committees and highlighted the main goals of the last 12 months, to name a few: the TDI activities on Screws without Heads, the monthly publication of the official EIFI wire rod cost change index based on the 50% of the wire (both drawn and undrawn) used for the production of fasteners in Europe, the activities on CBAM, the agreement with FRED CO<sup>2</sup> Footprint Calculator which grants to all EIFI members the access to the tool at reserved economic conditions, the PFAS Day had in Stuttgart on 25 March during the Fastener Fair Global, with speakers from producers of chemicals who also sponsored the event (thanks Dörken Coatings, MKS Atotech, Precote, MacDermid Enthone, Nof Metal Coatings Europe), coaters, fasteners producers and their customers. The very good attendance registered (more than 100 people) demonstrated the great interest on the PFAS subject.

**Massimiliano Testa**, Technical Expert of UPIVEB and Group Quality Director of Agrati Group made a presentation highlighting the importance of standardization activities in the fastener industry. The speech described the various activities completed in several working groups and subcommittees, emphasizing the collaborative efforts to develop and revise standards that ensure product quality, safety, and international market access.

**Inès Van Lierde**, Co-Chair of AEGIS Europe, spoke about the challenges faced by European industry. European manufacturers are squeezed between unfair competition abroad and a fragmented policy response at home. The result is the loss of market share, declining employment, and weakened strategic autonomy.

Across sectors, production in certain third countries continues to rise, not due to market demand, but driven by state-backed subsidies that distort global competition. Europe urgently needs a structural response to the overcapacity crisis: a dedicated mechanism to counteract its effects, stronger trade defence instruments within DG TRADE at the European Commission, and an export adjustment mechanism embedded in CBAM to ensure a level playing field.

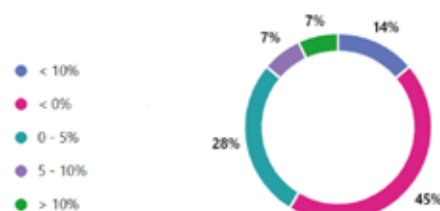
Without these tools, European industry risks being sidelined unable to match the scale and intensity of global competition. The time to act is now. The challenge is structural, and so must be the response.



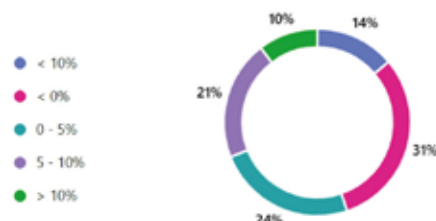
How did EIFI members evaluate the current market situation? The EIFI periodic survey shows, as expected, not enthusiastic results:

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1. How did your company's revenue develop in 2024 vs 2023 ?



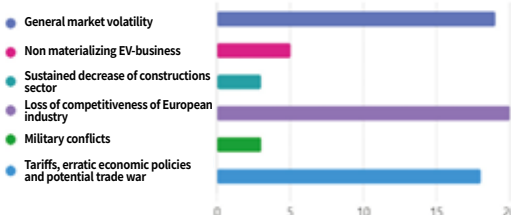
2. How did your company's EBIT develop in 2024 vs 2023 ?



3. What is your expectation on your company's revenue development in 2025 vs 2024 ?



4. What is the biggest market challenge that you see for 2025 ?



◀ Roundtable

Special thanks to **Gian Marco Dalpane**, Vice President of EFDA, European Fastener Distributor Association, **Daniel Walker**, P.E., Managing Director of Industrial Fasteners Institute and Arthur Chiang, President of TFTA, Taiwan Fasteners Trading Association for having joined EIFI members at the General Assembly in Seville and for having contributed, with the presentation of their Associations activities, to the common growth of knowledge.

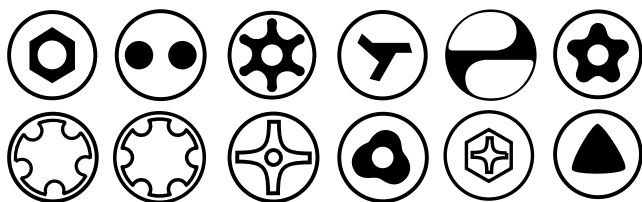
The main speech was “**A changing global order: from deglobalization to fragmentation**” and was delivered by **Eduardo Saldaña**, Co-director of El Orden Mundial, an independent media focused on international affairs, during the open afternoon part of the Assembly; key ideas addressed were:



# Security Fasteners



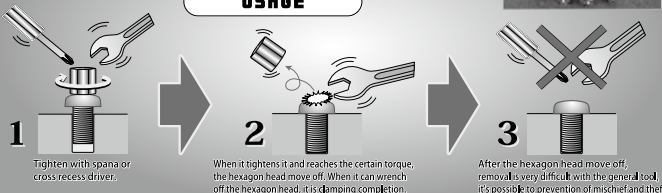
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▲ Delivery of the Robert Dicke Award to Alex Agirre  
From left to right: Paolo Pozzi, Alex Agirre, Christian F. Kocherscheidt, Fabrizio Fontana

- The world is fragmenting
- Logistical security > profitability
- Countries are more unilateral
- The rules-based world order is coming to an end
- An era of competition and uncertainty

Eduardo Saldaña then invited on stage the Professionals Belén Carreño Bravo, Financial Journalist, TV analyst, former Editor and Writer, Fernando Espada, CEO of TATA STEEL Spain and Vice-President of EUROMETAL and Benjamin Krieger, General Secretary of CLEPA, The European Association of Automotive Suppliers who gave their views during a very interesting Roundtable related "The Future of the European Industry" from the economic and industrial point of views.

The Gala Dinner of 9 May – arranged at Abades Triana Restaurant in front of the Guadalquivir River – was the beautiful frame of the delivery to Alex Agirre, President of ASEFI - Asociación Española de Fabricantes de Elementos de Fijación Metálicos, EIFI Board Member and General Manager of Company DOISTUA SA, of the Robert Dicke Award.

The "Robert Dicke Meritorious Service Award" was established by the EIFI General Assembly in May 2008 in honor and memory of Robert Dicke, Partner at Altenloh, Brinck & Co. GmbH & Co. KG and Vice President of EIFI until 2005.

This award is presented to an individual who has a record of significant and lasting contribution to the mechanical fastener industry and has demonstrated outstanding service to the EIFI in its pursuit of the objectives for which it was founded.

Thanks to ASEFI, Spanish Association: Alex Agirre (President), Ramon Ceravalls (Vice President), Alex Gonzalez (General Secretary) for the great job done with edition 2025 of EIFI General Assembly.

See you next year in UK! ■

