



European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry

Stakeholders from the cleaning and facility services industry met in successful EFCl's 2019 Conference to share expertise on the evolution and future of the sector

Brussels, 28 June 2019 – More than 100 delegates and speakers from several EU Member States gathered during EFCl's 2019 Conference to exchange views on innovation in the cleaning and facility services industry and on the challenges to come.

The European Cleaning and Facility Services Industry (EFCl) held its 10th Conference "Cleaning and Facility Services: shaping the industry of the future" on 28 of June in the iconic conference centre 'The Square', in the heart of Brussels.

The event was re-conceived with the modernisation of the Federation and reunited more than 100 representatives from the European Institutions, EFCl's stakeholders and experts from the sector and was hailed very successful in terms of the relevant sessions and quality of the presentations. EFCl's Conference became a reflexion point for our growing industry while giving participants the necessary tools to prepare for the challenges ahead.

The future-looking programme allowed interesting exchanges on the topic of innovation, around four roundtables:

- "An industry in evolution", during which EFCl's trend report "The cleaning industry in Europe 1995-2016" was presented and analysed;
 - "Innovating in a labour-intensive industry", during which social aspects of digitalisation and CSR were discussed;
 - "An innovative value chain", during which policymakers, industry representatives and clients presented their visions on where to put the accent on innovation;
 - "C for Circular Economy", during which and MEP, the European Commission and industry representatives explained how facility services can better integrate in the circular economy and how can it provide business value.
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- Barry Kitz (hkp///Remunet Group) presented the main figures of EFCl's Trend Report, underlining an *"impressive growth from the industry between 1995 and 2016: turnover tripled to €107 billion and employment increased by 80 %!"*.
 - Sergio Verdasco (Chief Sales and Marketing Officer at Ilunion Facility Services) said that *"it is possible to create successful business models departing from a deeply responsible and integration-based model"*.



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- Simona Bonafè (Member of the European Parliament) explained that Circular Economy “*is a change of paradigm compared to the actual situation, and it needs innovation and investment, but it is a unique opportunity to create business value and attractiveness for services. We want to see your facility services industry really involved in this process*”.
- Frank Vancreayveld from Werner & Mertz Professional qualified the circular economy as “*low-hanging fruit*” for the industry, as it “*provides business value by giving cleaning companies the opportunity to reduce their costs and create new virtuous economic models*”.



Barry Kitz presenting EFCI's trend report during the 1st roundtable.



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Anna Königson from Tork-Essity during her intervention at EFCI's Conference 2019.

Change of Presidency at the EFCI

Juan Díez de los Ríos was appointed President of the EFCI for 2019-2022 during EFCI's General Assembly that took place in Brussels on 27 June.

Juan Díez de los Ríos is the President of ASPEL, the Spanish Association of Professional Cleaning. He has been working in the field of business services and facility management for more than 20 years and is also President of the technical committee of the magazine Facility Management and Services.

The President gave the welcome address to the Conference and explained, among others, that *"despite suffering from what we call "invisibility", I am convinced that both the trend report and all of today's discussions will show our sector has an undisputable relevance in today's society, not only for the essential services that we provide, but also as regards the enormous impact it has in terms of employment and the role it plays, and can play, in terms of social affairs and circular economy."*



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Juan Díez de los Ríos, President of the EFCI, during his welcome address and exchanging with speakers Sergio Verdasco (Ilunion) and Frank Veneman (VSR, MGB Europe).



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EFCI's Trend Report on the Cleaning Industry in Europe

As a basis for the day discussion, the Conference started with a presentation of EFCI's new trend report "**The European Cleaning Industry 1995-2016**" (already available [here](#)).

This statistical report builds on the historical EFCI's surveys and presents the evolution in the sector from different angles. The cleaning industry experienced an impressive growth over the last 20 years with a turnover tripled to 107 billion Euro and employment increased by 80%, currently employing nearly 4 million people. The report includes relevant comparisons at national level, based on the most recent data available in Eurostat.

Conclusions of the Conference: room for development for the sector in which the EFCI will accompany the industry

EFCI's Director, Isabel Yglesias, concluded the Conference by highlighting the quality of the interventions and that the main issues raised coincided with [EFCI's political priorities](#) for the new European legislative mandate: the need for high quality procurement and for a level playing field to ensure that the sector continues its growth and develops all its potential, the development of a skills and training agenda for the sector; and the support through adequate legislation for the sectors to totally integrate the circular economy.

The pictures and communication post-event will be soon available on EFCI's dedicated webpage www.efci.eu/conference2019 and on EFCI's social media ([Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#): [#EFCIConference2019](#)).

About the EFCI

The EFCI is the voice of the European cleaning and facility services industry in Europe, bringing together associations representing the industry at national level. The cleaning and facility services sector is one of the major services industries in Europe, representing 270,000 companies employing nearly 4 million people.

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