

PRE Congress 2021

15 October 2021, Madrid – The 2021 European Refractories Producers Federation (PRE) Congress took place on 13-15 October in Madrid, Spain, and was hosted by Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Productos Refractarios, Materiales y Servicios Afines (ANFRE) and co-organised by PRE.

For the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, around 70 PRE members, executives from the refractory industry and national associations from all over Europe gathered in person for a 3-day Congress to discuss important information and key updates pertaining to the refractory industry at the European level.

The Congress opened on Wednesday 13 October with the PRE Executive Committee where administrative matters were discussed and the Congress meetings preparation was finalised.

On the following day the meeting sessions commenced with the PRE Economic Committee. Members were presented with statistics concerning the 2020 / 2021 trends for refractory products, raw material prices and freight costs. Following this, the Safety awards were presented to the winning plants. The rest of the morning was dedicated to discussions in smaller groups: members had the choice to attend one of the four available parallel workshops on Circular Economy, Digitalisation/Industry 4.0, Safety and Climate Policy and Trade.

Once the meetings and workshops ended, members were welcome on a guided visit of Madrid de los Austrias as part of the social programme organized by ANFRE which ended with a gala dinner in the evening.

Friday 15 October was dedicated to the PRE General Assembly. Conclusions of the workshops were shared and the awards for Circular Economy were presented to the representatives of the winning plants. The meeting also allowed Cerame-Unie to present the key actions the team is currently leading at European level. Topics included trade, chemical issues, environment, research, and sustainable finance. Finally, a vote took place where Patrick Bikard was elected for a second mandate as PRE President and Christian Meyre was appointed as Vice-President. The meeting was concluded with a teaser for the 2022 PRE Congress which will take place in Vienna (Austria) on 1-3 June 2022. We look forward to meeting all PRE members there!





Award Winners:

Safety:

- Gold: Radenthein Plant - RHI Magnesita,
- Silver: Foseco Hengelo - Vesuvius,
- Bronze: Seville Plant - Alfran

Circular Economy:

- Gold: Veitsch and Mainzlar - RHI Magnesita
- Silver: Třinec – Vesuvius
- Bronze: Muelheim - Vesuvius.