

UFI announces upcoming departure of CEO Kai Hattendorf

Paris – 27 August 2024: UFI, The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry, announces that Kai Hattendorf will leave UFI at the end of 2024, having been the CEO since 2015.

“I joined UFI in 2015, and these past ten years as the association’s CEO have been an amazing journey, serving the global exhibitions and business events industry”, says **Kai Hattendorf**. “A role like this is a stewardship for every person in office, and part of that stewardship is to find the right time to pass on the baton to a new leader. I could think of no better time to do this than the coming months, and as part of UFI’s centennial where we recognize the achievement of the past while preparing for the challenges of tomorrow”, Kai continues.

Founded in 1925 in Milan, UFI will embark on a year of special programmes and activities to mark the organisation’s centennial at the 2024 Global Congress that will take place from 20 – 23 November in Cologne, Germany,

“UFI has an extremely strong team in place in Paris and the offices around the world, thanks to the amazing work Kai is doing, together with our COO Adeline Vancauwelaert in recent years”, says **Geoff Dickinson, UFI President**. “On behalf of the UFI leadership, I cannot highlight enough how Kai’s tireless work over the past ten years has driven UFI’s growth and development through good times as well as the pandemic - the worst crisis we all had to face in our lifetime. Kai’s commitment to our industry is unparalleled, and we will make sure to see him off in style towards the end of the year.”

The UFI leadership team, led by Dickinson and supported by Vancauwelaert and Hattendorf, is managing the process of recruiting UFI’s next CEO.

Attachment:

- [Portrait of Kai Hattendorf](#)

***About UFI, The Global Association of the Exhibition Industry:** UFI is the global trade association of the world’s tradeshow organisers and exhibition centre operators, as well as the major national and international exhibition associations, and selected partners of the exhibition industry. UFI’s main goal is to represent, promote and support the business interests of its members and the exhibition industry. UFI directly represents more than 50,000 exhibition industry employees globally and also works closely with more than 70 national and regional association members. More than 870 member organisations in 89 countries around the world are presently signed up as members. Over 900 international trade fairs proudly bear the UFI-approved label, a quality guarantee for visitors and exhibitors alike. UFI members continue to provide the international business community with a unique marketing media aimed at developing outstanding face-to-face business opportunities.*

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