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**NEWS RELEASE**

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# **FESPA INAUGURATES YAŞAR GŰVENEN AS 16TH PRESIDENT**

## *New president reinforces FESPA’s commitment to stimulate sustainable growth for print*

Yaşar Gűvenen has been inaugurated as the 16th President of FESPA, in a ceremony at the FESPA Awards Gala Dinner at Flora Köln during FESPA 2015 in Cologne, Germany (18-22 May 2015). He accepted the chain of office from outgoing president and fellow FESPA board member Lascelle Barrow, who has served in the role of President since June 2013.

As FESPA President, Yaşar Gűvenen now chairs the FESPA Board and the General Assembly of the organisation’s 37 member associations and will work with FESPA CEO Neil Felton to deliver the FESPA strategy. He will also support FESPA General Secretary Sean Holt to oversee FESPA’s activities as a federation of national associations, focusing on the reinvestment of funds for the benefit of FESPA’s global community of printers through the *Profit for Purpose* programme.

Yaşar Gűvenen joined the FESPA board in 2008, following nomination by ARED, FESPA’s Turkish member association, of which he also served as President from 2006 to 2008. As a board member, he has had specific inputs to the launch and development of all exhibitions outside Western Europe, including FESPA Eurasia in Istanbul, as well as European Sign Expo.

Yaşar has been a Board Member of ESF (European Sign Federation) since 2010, and has also served as Vice President of the Aegean Young Businessmen Association (EGIAD). His professional career started in 1981 as the first R&D staff member of a small German business in the field of industrial advertising products. In 1987 Yaşar founded his first company, a small POP atelier which has developed into a globally active group of companies under several brands including *ALGROUP International, ALVISUAL* and *AION*, focusing on the design and production management of indoor and outdoor visual communication solutions. He is also the founder of *GÜVENEN Management* which provides local guidance, set-up and implementation services for potential investors and newcomers to the Turkish market.

Yaşar Gűvenen says: “I’m very proud to take up the role of FESPA President. Since I joined the FESPA family, I have experienced at first hand the strong global connections between our 37 member associations, and the personal relationships that make them real. They are one of FESPA’s greatest strengths, giving FESPA its unique ability to think globally and act locally. As President, I’m committed to nurturing and growing this community, and to supporting our associations in the amazing work they do, showing respect for their knowledge of local issues and cultural contexts.

“Today FESPA covers six of the most important regions globally, enabling us to provide the best possible service to our business partners and to our valuable members in 37 countries. Our mission is to ensure that FESPA’s global reach - and our continued commercial success - drives sustained growth and development for our print community. FESPA’s unique ‘*Profit for Purpose’* reinvestment programme plays an important role in this, so a key focus for me over the next two years will be to work with my FESPA colleagues to drive this programme forward and deliver ever greater benefits for our stakeholders.”

Yaşar is supported by FESPA Vice President Christian Duyckaerts, who also represents FESPA’s Belgian member association Febelgra. The FESPA Board is now as follows:

* Yaşar Gűvenen – President (Turkey)
* Christian Duyckaerts - Vice President (Belgium)
* Enrico Steijn - Treasurer (Netherlands)
* Christophe Aussenac (France)
* Lascelle Barrow - (UK)
* Gyorgy Kovacs (Hungary)
* Anders Nilsson (Sweden)
* Thomas Struckmeier (Germany)

ENDS

**About FESPA**

Founded in 1962, FESPA is a global federation of 37 member associations for the screen printing, digital printing and textile printing community. FESPA’s dual aim is to promote screen printing and digital imaging and to share knowledge about screen and digital printing with its members across the world, helping them to grow their businesses and learn about the latest developments in their fast growing industries.

**FESPA Profit for Purpose**
Our shareholders are the industry. FESPA has invested millions of Euros into the global printing community over the last seven years, supporting the growth of the market. For more information visit [www.fespa.com](http://www.fespa.com)

**FESPA Census**

The FESPA Print Census is a global research project to understand the wide format, screen and digital print community. It is the largest data gathering project of its kind. The survey is published in several languages and can be completed online: [www.fespa.com/census](http://www.fespa.com/census).

**Forthcoming FESPA events include:**

* FESPA 2015, 18-22 May 2015, Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany
* European Sign Expo 2015, 18-22 May 2015, Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany
* Printeriors 2015, 18-22 May 2015, Koelnmesse, Cologne, Germany
* FESPA Africa, 22-24 July 2015, Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa
* African Print Conference, 22-23 July 2015, Gallagher Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa
* FESPA Mexico 2015, 20-22 August 2015, Centro Banamex, Mexico City, Mexico
* Brasil Signage Expo, 27-28 August 2015, Expo Center Norte, São Paulo, Brazil
* FESPA China 2015, 21-23 October 2015, Shanghai New Int’l Expo Centre, Shanghai, China
* FESPA Eurasia 2015, 26-29 November 2015, CNR Expo, Istanbul, Turkey
* FESPA Digital 2016, 08-11 March 2016, RAI Amsterdam, The Netherlands

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