

Looking forward to seeing you again

Originally scheduled to take place in Strasbourg in October 2020, the bi-annual FCSI EAME Conference, has been moved to April 2021. Here the **FCSI EAME board** outlines the changes to the plans

Clearly, the world is in a state of flux at the moment and we find ourselves in the middle of something completely unprecedented.

We hope people are healthy at home and we think about the people who have passed away and the medical staff in hospitals and care homes who are working so hard to save lives.

Moving the EAME Conference from this year to next was an easy decision for the board. Without knowing how long the current Covid-19 challenges will go on we made the decision as soon as we could to give ourselves plenty of time to make alternative arrangements.

As you may know The FCSI EAME Division organises a conference every two years – previously this has taken us to many beautiful, exciting cities including Vienna, Stockholm, Prague and most recently Rotterdam in 2018. We have had some memorable meetings.

Moving the conference means it will be in the same year as the HostMilano trade show so there will be two major events in 2021 – one in spring and one in autumn. It will be a busy year, but we want to help everybody breathe new life into their business.

So, here's what we know. First, the conference is going to be in a city in France. We are currently in the planning stages and as soon as lockdown is lifted, we will start visiting potential conference venues, restaurants and hotels. Second, the conference will start on a Thursday in

April and run until the Sunday.

It goes without saying that the city we choose will be wonderful, but the venue and the accommodation have to be excellent too.

Foodservice consultants and people who work across the hospitality industry expect a great meeting with good food, great restaurants and luxurious hotel rooms. It has to be a real hospitality event with plenty of 'wow factor' – that's what we're setting our sights on and researching now.

Even though we can't travel at the moment we are already discussing the theme of the event and details of the programme. The ingredients of the conference must bring something for everyone.

We have decided on sustainability as the overall theme and all the various aspects this covers, from manufacturers working on warewashers that don't use water to hospitality trainers that help organisations create a better hotel and enable people to work better together.

We are determined to bring you an unforgettable conference where people will come away saying: "Wow, the FCSI 2021 Conference was a great experience. It had lots of information I can use to make my business better. I met nice people and the workshops had something to interest everyone."

Some people want to go to a Revit or



BIM workshop and others might be more interested in hearing about wellbeing at work. We will make sure that everybody has something to suit their interests and Covid-19 will certainly be a topic for discussion in the workshops.

There will be an evening dinner and we will speed network again. All the individual EAME country divisions will also have the opportunity to hold their annual meetings during the conference.

So we are poised and ready, but when the world behaves as it is at the moment you have to wait until it is safe – because safety remains the number one priority.

To conclude, we wish to send a heartfelt message of gratitude to all the Allied Members who have, yet again, committed to sponsorship of the event. We really appreciate their continued support and the commitment to FCSI EAME. ■

We will fly the flag for the FCSI EAME Division again in 2021