
UPEI APPOINTS ITS NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

UPEI, the voice of Europe's independent fuel suppliers, is pleased to announce the appointment of Pierre Lucas as its new Secretary General as of 1st February 2022.

Following the General Meeting which took place online on 8 November 2021, Pierre Lucas has been appointed as the new UPEI Secretary General.

With over thirty years of experience within European associations in Brussels, more recently in the management and representation to the EU institutions of several industry associations at Orgalim (Europe's Technology industries), including the pumps, compressors and taps and valves sectors, Pierre Lucas has a track record in European trade association management and offers a proven knowledge of policy tracking and advocacy at EU level.

Commenting on the appointment, Johan Deleu, ad-interim President of UPEI, said: *On behalf of UPEI, I am delighted to welcome Pierre as our new Secretary General. I look forward to working with him. Pierre has an excellent track record in the industry associations management. His experience will be valuable in working together with EU policy makers and our increasingly broad community of stakeholders to ensure that independent fuel suppliers are able to effectively contribute to the energy transition. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Secretary General, Cécile Nourigat, for her strong contribution to our association's development."*

Pierre Lucas stated: *"I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as UPEI new Secretary General. 2022 will be an exciting year for many aspects in Europe. In the area of energy, the "Fit for 55 Package" proposed by the European Commission will be discussed and amended by the European Parliament and the Council. As far as investments are concerned, many opportunities will be offered thanks to the implementation of the EU Recovery Plan "Next Generation EU" in the Member States. With the mutual support of our Board, our members and our Secretariat, I look forward to bringing forward our UPEI Vision for 2050 to the EU energy discussions. I have a lot to learn on the business of the European independent fuel suppliers and look forward to meeting and exchanging with our members and quickly be able to represent them at European level".*

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UPEI represents nearly 2,000 European importers and wholesale/retail distributors of energy for the transport and heating sectors, supplying Europe's customers independently of the major energy producers. They are the interface between producers and consumers, using their own infrastructure and flexibility to supply existing demand for conventional and renewable liquid fuels, as well as non-liquid alternatives as part of the energy transition. They cover more than a third of Europe's current demand. The organisation brings together national associations and suppliers across Europe.

Independent fuel suppliers bring competition to Europe's energy market and are able to respond rapidly to changes affecting supply, contributing to security on a local, national and regional level. They have developed and maintain a comprehensive infrastructure for the sourcing, storage and distribution of transport and heating fuels, with a commitment to delivering a high-quality service to all consumers, including those in remote areas.

Since 1962 UPEI has been advocating for a level playing field and fair competition to ensure an affordable, sustainable, and secure energy supply for Europe's consumers. Today, in the context of the transition to a low carbon economy, UPEI and its members are also addressing the challenges of adapting the product range and meeting consumer demand through market-oriented solutions.

With its strong track record in pioneering the supply of renewable fuels in the EU, UPEI's members remain committed to delivering and embracing new, cost effective solutions which further promote energy efficiency and reduce pollutants and emissions.