

## The Purpose of EFCEM

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The European Federation of Food Equipment Manufacturers (EFCEM) is the only Commercial Kitchen Equipment Group represented in Brussels by Orgalim, the highly respected voice of the European Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Industries.

The Federation is active in the formulation of standards for the industry and through its meetings seeks to identify and act on issues of common interest.

## EFCEM General Assembly now taking place online

Considering the situation concerning the Coronavirus in Europe and in agreement with the President and with FELAC, it was agreed to cancel the General Assembly in Barcelona.

The EFCEM General Assembly 2020 will be an online-only assembly that will be held in the same date and time: 10th June from 09:00 to 13:00. FELAC confirmed their availability to host the General Assembly 2021 in Barcelona.

## EFCEM advice regarding COVID-19

EFCEM draws attention to the fact that when canteens and restaurants are closed during a showdown as a measure to contain the corona pandemic, food supplies are shifting.

All meals that would normally be taken in Restaurants and Canteens must now be taken through supermarkets. Empty shelves have recently been observed in supermarkets in some countries, which has led to public concerns and political interventions.

96 million meals are supplied in normal times every day by Restaurants, Canteens and similar in Europe. Many of these meals have to be replaced via the food supply of households by direct purchase in supermarkets and food shops.

All consumers are invited to duly plan their purchases, to avoid exaggerated purchase of the same item and to carefully follow the advices given by Authorities.

With such dynamic changes, the Commission is called to provide strategic guidance to Member States and to Industry in order to protect the business/delivery supply chains to ensure the availability of food to citizens.

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Working Group One:

## BIM and Public Procurement

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The committee has had discussions relating to the EFCEMBIM database and this has mostly focused on the availability of content and the site's use by manufacturers.

This is a fast moving area of our work as we seek to ensure effective representation of the industry's BIM models and data on a European platform. Developments from the original 'static models' to dynamic models that can be kept up to date with software development is an issue that will require consideration. This is on the agenda for the discussions at the next General Assembly in June with our partner who manages the platform, Specifi.

EFCEM is joint chair of the IFSE standards group (International Foodservice Equipment) which is responsible for overseeing the development of the parameters.

Any company or national association wishing to suggest a technical or editorial change must use the form provided at [gfeands.org/bim](http://gfeands.org/bim).

Here it is also possible to download the published version of the parameters for your own use. These build on the FCSI North American Revit standards for the industry and also are in multiple languages.

Working Group Two:

## Environmental Matters

Convener contact [heinz@hki-online.de](mailto:heinz@hki-online.de)

As part of the stakeholder consultation on the revision of Regulations 65/2014 and 66/2014, EFCEM sent a filled-in questionnaire to the Commission and prepared comments on the first Technical Working Party (TWG), which took place on 19 March. Mr. Heinz from HKI leads this operation in EFCEM Working Group Two ("environmental issues").

EFCEM highlights the difference between household appliances and professional appliances, the definition of which is based on the user and the location of the appliance, rather than on a list of appliance types that cannot be exhausted. In addition, attention is currently being drawn to the fact that even the "review study" after the survey does little to clarify the professional kitchen area.

Actually, this area is currently indirectly excluded from the process. But conclusions can be drawn from the household area: If the test mode is problematic for household appliances, it becomes even more difficult for professional devices, where the operating modes are more complex.

And so far nothing has been said explicitly about the best technologies by the Commission's research center.

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Working Group Two:

## Environmental Matters continued

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To better understand the industry, Working Group Two provided an overview of the devices for the Commission's researchers. Important points are still: There is a large variety and a smaller number of products that are part of a kitchen system.

These systems are planned. The sales agents in the catering equipment sector and their customers typically deal with questions such as energy consumption, since the building structure and the building equipment have to be adapted accordingly (e.g. power supply). That is why we firmly believe in the ability that this industry can face future environmental challenges itself - even without regulation.

Working Group Three:

## Safety, Hygiene, Potability of Water

Convener contact [carlo.carincola@appliitalia.it](mailto:carlo.carincola@appliitalia.it)

WG3 has been involved during the end of summer 2019 in the revision of the Machinery Directive, the main legislative safety reference for the equipment of our sector that was placed under the judgment of the users and the stakeholder, like EFCEM.

The main message delivered from the Federation to the Commission and VVA, the Commission consultant, was to transform the Directive into a Regulation, that is self-executing and does not require any implementing measures. This move can have a clear positive related to the harmonization in all EU of the duty for the pricing on the all EU market. Other comments were related to the alignment of the MD to the NLF and to keep the essential requirements of the Directive unchanged.

The Convenorship updated the WG during autumn and winter about the evolution of the process of revision of the Drinking Water Directive. Here the main issue is the lack of harmonization in all the EU countries. EFCEM is part of the Drinking water Alliance, a group of European Association and Federation of the industry sector, that during these months of revision process have worked to achieve the harmonization result.

On 18 December, the European Parliament and the Council reached a compromise agreement on the Drinking Water Directive (DWD). The compromise, that is fully aligned with the view of DW Alliance and EFCEM, was endorsed by EU Environment ministers during the 5 March Environment Council meeting.

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**Working Group Three:**

## Safety, Hygiene, Potability of Water continued

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As a next step, it will tentatively be endorsed by the European Parliament during the July plenary session. The European Commission, in line with industries' requests, will now elaborate a series of positive lists for starting substances, compositions or constituents valid through all EU.

The next WG3 Web meeting will be held on 17th April. On that occasion, the participants will discuss the use of Iron as material in contact with food in the relation to the Food Contact Framework Regulations and related guidance and the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis on our Industry.



**Working Group Four:**

## Connectivity

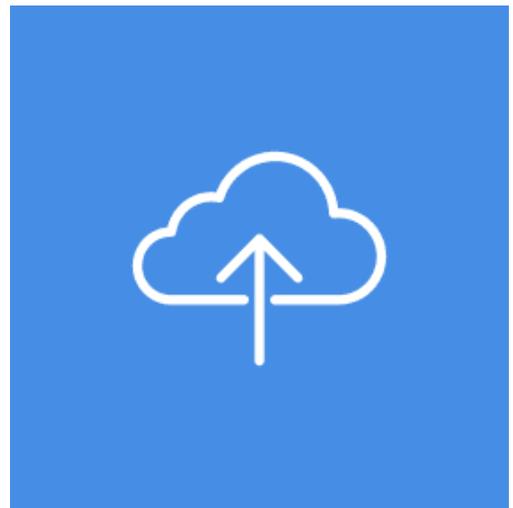
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There have been three conference call meetings which were all well attended by EFCEM National Associations and by companies. The focus of the work has been on the protocols for equipment communication.

NAFEM have also participated in the discussion as we have considered if there is any alignment between the OPC UA protocol and the NAFEM data protocol.

This work is vital as we seek to provide guidance and advice for members whilst also giving a leadership position to give operators the confidence to invest in connected equipment for the benefits that it brings to their operations.

EFCEM's management committee recently approved a study into the operability of the OPC UA protocol and this will be circulated when ready.



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**Working Group Five:**

# Marketing

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At the last meeting the group approved a structure for the dissemination of information both internally in EFCEM and also externally with the EU Commission and MEPS (see right).

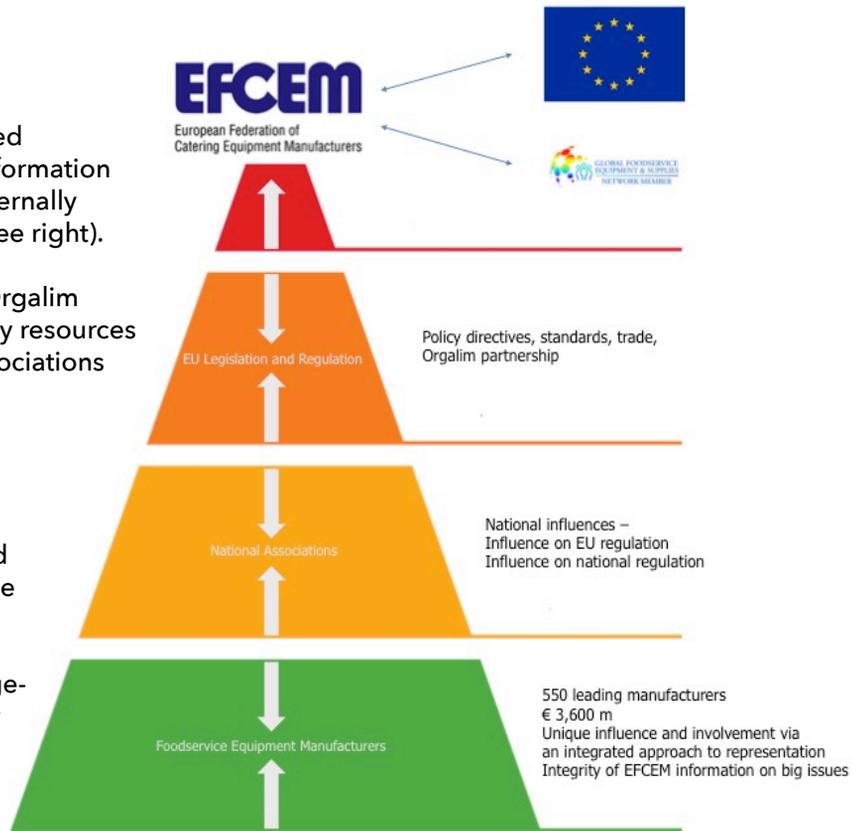
Our role as an associate member of Orgalim provides access to technical and policy resources which will be shared with national associations and with companies.

## WG5 Strategy Development

WG5 are also continuing to develop a member acquisition strategy aligned to the strategic approach agreed at the EGM in November 2019.

In order to increase the level of engagement the strategy will target three key groups in order to boost EFCEM's reach and impact as follows:

- 1) Policy makers (Brussels)
  - a. Statement of directives and regulations from Working Groups
- 2) National Associations
  - a. Working Groups report to National Associations on regulation and policy
  - b. Implement task groups
  - c. Delegate level of responsibility to National Associations
- 3) Companies
  - a. Increase working group involvement
  - b. Improve communication
  - c. Events



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