



Welcome

by Peter Sundström, EUROFORGE President

Ladies and Gentlemen,
dear colleagues and customers,
forging friends,

On behalf of EUROFORGE and its 9 member associations it is a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to the 17.IFC.

The international forging congresses has a long and successful tradition and has taken place every 3rd year since the 50-ties all over the world. Last time in 1999 we had a very interesting congress in Beijing, China arranged by the Chinese forging association.

For the very first time this years congress is hosted not by a single country but by EUROFORGE and all it's member countries associations/companies. EUROFORGE member associations represent today 400 companies with 65000 employees and a production of 4.3 million tons per year. This congress is a good example what European forgers can accomplish when working close together for a common goal. All 9 member associations of EUROFORGE and dedicated people from different forging companies have participated in committees and working groups with one common single goal. That is to make this congress a real attractive and interesting event for the forging industry world wide.

The concept this time is a combination of several interesting parts:

- The combination and co-operation with the METAV international fair, this year focusing on high-tech forging – die shop, automation, milling technology is one new approach. I hope those of you that have been visiting the fair had an interesting day yesterday!
- Another new approach is that participants can visit leading forging companies from different countries and not only the country where the conference is taken place. As you all know we offered the unique opportunity to chose from plant-tours in the Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, Spain or Sweden. This will for sure be exciting next week!
- We also have had a high ambition concerning the presentations. A special programme committee, with Herr Erwin Peddinghaus as chairman, and with

professional people from leading European forging companies participating have worked very hard to assure real top quality presentations. The general approach is to have presentations focusing on the future and dealing with new trends for our industry. You will be the judge of how we have succeeded the days to come.

- For the first time also the customers of the forging industry are very welcome to participate. This is in line with EUROFORGE general idea of openness and co-operation within our business. A very special welcome to you.

Ladies and Gentlemen, key players of the international forging industry, the days to come will provide an ideal platform for

- information on the latest trends in our industry
- benchmarking your company with leading companies in your business area
- exchanging information and experience and discussing common problems

- Developing your network and making new friends.

Last but not certainly not least special attention has also been given to the programme for accompanying persons and you can be sure that we will spend some exciting and interesting days in the Rhineland.

Of course there will be special programmes for accompanying persons in each of the countries hosting the plant tours.

I wish you all an interesting and enjoyable congress!

Peter Sundström
President EUROFORGE