



European Welding Association

european-welding.org



EWA
European Welding Association

2024-2025



Who is EWA?

- **The European Welding Association (EWA) is an industrial association which comprises national associations and manufacturers of welding equipment, welding/brazing consumables, and health and safety equipment from across Europe.**
- **EWA was founded in 1987 and its official headquarter is located in Paris.**
 - Its predecessor was the Association of European Manufacturers of Welding Consumables (CEFE) which was founded in 1958.

Membership

- Membership is open to:
 - European national associations of manufacturers of
 - Welding/brazing consumables
 - Electric arc welding/cutting equipment
 - Flame equipment
 - Equipment for assuring health and safety of the welders (including fumes extraction systems)
 - As well as products of related technologies
 - European manufacturers of the above-mentioned products with a manufacturing facility in Europe and which already are members in the national welding association where its headquarters is based

Who is EWA?

- **Duties and Objectives :**
 - **The association focuses on the mutual technical and economic interests of the European welding industry and its customers by :**
 - Participating in the development and application of all relevant technical issues, standards , European directive , recommendations (from ECHA and REACH...) affecting the welding industry, in cooperation with trade organisations, EU authorities and all other relevant bodies.
 - Publishing recommendations of the safe use of the welding and the position of the industry when necessary
 - Gathering and analysing industry specific market and trends
 - Promoting the European welding industry , the safe use of welding / cutting and the welding profession.

Structure

- **The EWA is comprised of the following offices :**
 - the Executive committee meetings.
 - the Management Team.
 - the Technical Committees.
 - The General Assembly.
- **Executive committee meetings : 2 annual meetings**
 - The executive meetings consists of representatives of the members. It is a meeting of information of the works in progress

Structure

- **Management team: (President , Vice President , General manager)**
 - The Management team is in charge of the routine management of the EWA and in particular of implementing the decisions of the General Assembly . It prepares proposals for the General assembly , manages the membership and finances of EWA and ensures that the legal obligations of the EWA are observed.
- **Technical Committees: 2 annual meetings of each committee**
 - The technical committees carry out detailed work on the technical aspects of welding and manufacturing of equipment and consumables (sharing information on standards , European directives , recommendations of ECHA, REACH). TC edit position papers, statement and recommendations when necessary ..)
 - Usually, there are at least 4 technical committees dealing with:
 - **Welding/brazing consumable materials – Chair: Vincent Van der mee**
 - **Arc welding/cutting equipment – Chair: Josef Feichtinger**
 - **Flame equipment- Chair: Luca Manzini**
 - **Health and safety equipment for welders – Chair: Manfred Koenning**

Structure 2025

- **President and Vice Presidents**
 - The President is Emil Schubert from Germany / CEO of ABICOR Binzel
 - Vice President : Gary Konarska / CEO of Lincoln Electric Europe
 - Vice President: Luigi Frasson from Italy / CEO of INE / Past President of Anasta
 - Vice President: Vice President: Frederic Lanz from Germany / CEO of Kemper
 - President are elected for 2 years by the General Assembly (their mandate can be renewed for a consecutive 2 years), vice president are elected by the executive committee for 2 years (their mandate can be renewed for a consecutive 2 years),
- **General Manager**
 - The General Manager undertakes the executive management of the Association;
 - The present General Manager is Guy Missiaen

Sales Statistics

- EWA records the sales of its members
 - On a quarterly basis for welding consumables (in volume) and arc welding equipment (in value)
 - On a yearly basis for welding consumables, arc welding equipment and flame equipment
 - On semestrial basis for flame equipment and health- safety equipment
 - In 2025 a survey on Automation will be launched
- EWA statistics strictly respect the confidentiality of data and communicates, only, the consolidated results to its members
- Some data are secret if there are less than 3 declaring companies / or if one company represents more than 85% of the total – for Germany the criteria if not 3 but 5.

Members of EWA (National Associations) 2025- 2026

- **4 National Associations :**

- ANASTA (Association of Italian manufacturers) represented by Fabio Targa and Luca Manzini
- SEV (Association of German electrodes producers) represented by A. Fliess (President of Fliess) and Mario Bertling
- EVOLIS (Association of French manufacturers) represented by Nicolas Lettner
- ZVEI (Association of German electrical manufacturers) represented by Maximilian Hausmann

EWA Direct members (35)

- ABICOR BINZEL
- CASTOLIN
- CEA
- CORAL
- DONALDSON
- ENGMAR
- ESAB EUROPE AG
- EWM
- FRONIUS INTERNATIONAL
- GCE
- GEDIK WELDING
- GYS
- HARRIS CALORIFIC
- HYPER THERM EUROPE
- INE
- ITW Welding
- KEMPER
- KEMPPI OY
- KOBELCO Welding of Europe
- LINCOLN ELECTRIC
- LORCH
- MAGMAWELD
- NEDERMAN
- OPTREL
- OTC DAIHEN
- PLYMOVENT
- SELECTARC
- SIDENOR SA ERLIKON
- VOESTALPINE BÖHLER WELDING
- WELDING ALLOYS GROUP
- YILDIZ GAZ
- 2024 New members :
 - MESSER CUTTING
 - ELECTROPORTUGAL
- 2025 New members
 - CEBORA / Italy
 - AERSERVICE / Italy

Characteristics of the welding industry in Europe

Main markets using welding and cutting of metals for construction

- Building and infrastructures – metallic construction
- Construction of Transport equipment
 - Train
 - Automotive
 - Ships
 - Aircraft
- Construction for Energy
 - Oil and gas processes
 - Pipe lines and pipe mills
 - Power plants (Coal, gas, nuclear)
 - Wind mills , Electrolysers
 - Petrochemicals industry
- Construction of Equipment for other industrial processes (food industry, chemical industry, storage, boilers, wastes treatment ...)
- Other construction of mechanical equipment: earth moving, agricultural equipment, military equipment, construction of various machines
- Maintenance , repair , plumbers
- Hobby

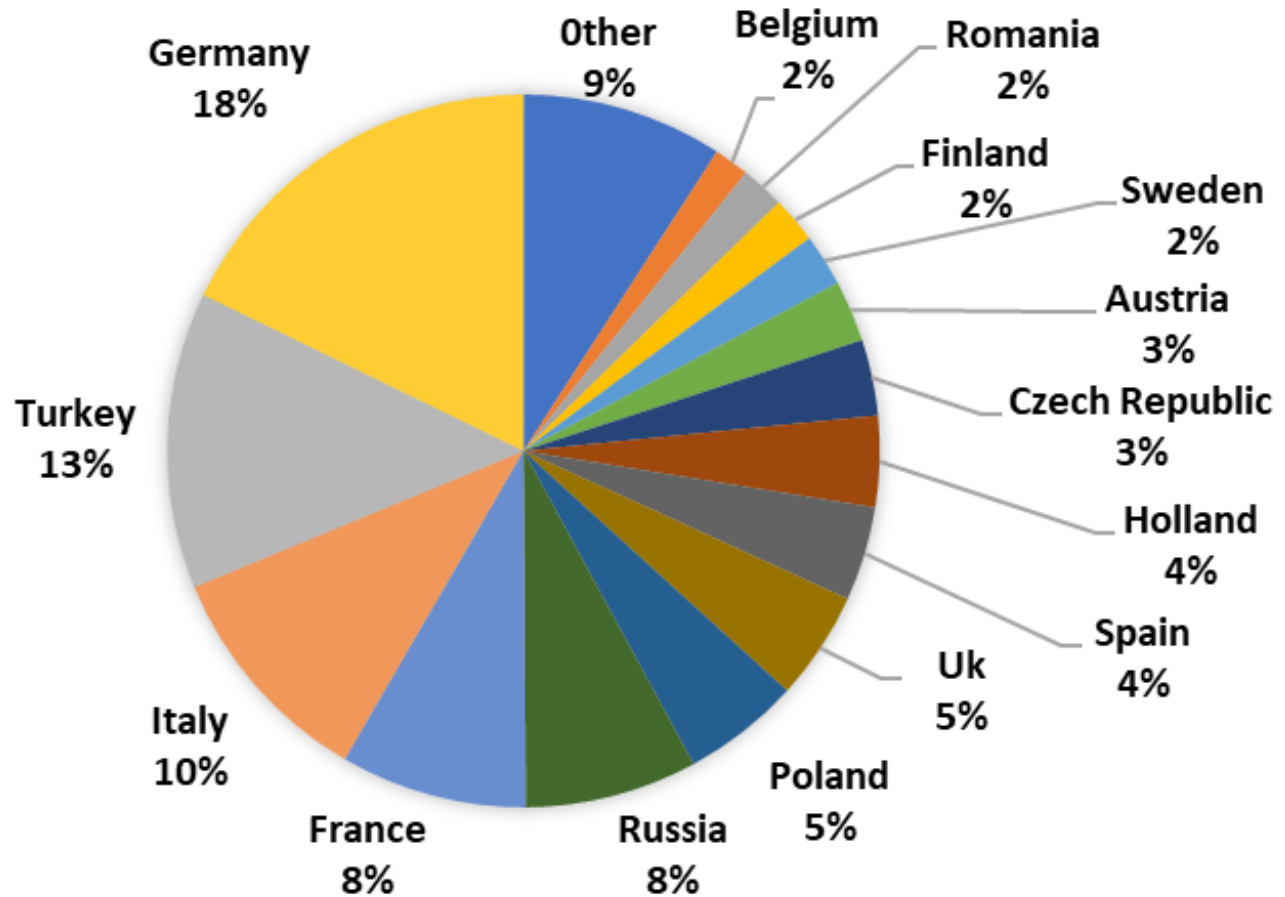
Dynamics of the welding market

- Main TRENDS :
 - Automation of welding (and cutting) operations – growth of robotics sector
 - Lack of skilled welders – need for more trained welders / and more training
 - Construction of lighter structures with the use of higher-strength and lighter-weight materials, particularly some steels and aluminium
 - Demands of higher levels of reliability and higher-quality requirements.
 - Developing countries with industrialisation and rapid urbanisation
 - Improving safety for welders / process with less emission of fumes / development of personal protective equipment protection / fumes extraction system
 - Additive manufacturing
 - Welding 4.0 / data collection and treatment to improve productivity, repeatability and quality
 - Additive manufacturing
 - Impact of European Directives on eco-Design , circular economy, EMF
 - Acceleration of energy transition (energy , transportation, construction , manufacturing , heavy industry , agricultural sectors will be affected)
 - Long term steel consumption in Europe

Market repartition

(Arc welding equipment + Welding consumables)

2022 estimation: 3,3 billions €



Code of conduct

- Every member participating in the EWA meeting has to strictly respect the EWA code of conduct

Code of Conduct

The **European Welding Association** believes it is important that its activities are at all times carried out in accordance with the applicable law, especially competition law. The **European Welding Association** believes that business shall be conducted in an atmosphere of free competition, i.e. on the basis of price and quality. The **European Welding Association** recognises that competition law intends to stimulate free competition, something which has **The European Welding Association's** full support. **The European Welding Association** feels it is important to confirm this by adopting a Code of Conduct. This Code of Conduct shall be binding on all members as well as on other participants when taking part in activities of **The European Welding Association**. The Code of Conduct aims at providing clear rules to **The European Welding Association's** members, thus reducing the risk of improper conduct and consequently of fines being imposed.

The following rules shall at all times be respected within the **European Welding Association** :

CORE PROCEDURES

1. Meetings of a body, committee, working group or other form of cooperation within **The European Welding Association** shall only take place after the members have been invited to the meeting in writing. The notice inviting to the meeting shall also include the agenda of the meeting.
2. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting as referred to in 1., above; these shall be sent to all members of the relevant body, committee, working group or other form of cooperation. The minutes shall be kept in an organised form for a period of at least 7-10 years.
3. Consultations and discussions in a body, committee, working group or other form of cooperation on the topics on the agenda and other topics, where these are related to the market (i.e. topics that may be of interest for the position and for determining the position of the individual members in competition), shall be limited to the official meeting, of which minutes will be kept.
4. During the consultations as referred to in 3., above, it shall not be decided to discuss certain topics during the meeting subject to the condition that this will not be recorded in the minutes. If such condition is stipulated the chairman of the meeting shall refuse to proceed to discuss the topic in question.
5. Each meeting of a body, committee, working group or other form of cooperation during which market-related topics are discussed, shall be attended by at least one staff member of the association. This staff member will monitor topics that are sensitive from a competition law point of view. If there are doubts about such sensitivities, the topic shall not be discussed until the advice of an expert in the field of competition law is obtained, and this advice is to the effect that the topic may be discussed without any objection, or until the limits to be observed during the discussion are clear.

PROHIBITED TOPICS

The following topics are prohibited and out of bounds during meetings of bodies, committees, working groups or other forms of cooperation within **The European Welding Association**, particularly as far as information on these topics is exchanged between companies which might be considered as competitors:

- ❖ Sale prices, rates, (intended) price adjustments, recommended prices, discounts, mark-ups and other price-related topics concerning products or services of member companies;
- ❖ Division/sharing of the market, e.g. by allocating a specific geographical area, specific customers or specific groups of customers to specific members;
- ❖ Restriction of production or sales;
- ❖ Pre-consultations with respect to responses to invitations to tender of potential clients;
- ❖ Charging on offer costs of competitors in one's own offer;
- ❖ Exchanging market information by the individual members, i.e. information about production, turnover, sales, investments, divestments, R&D expenses and other information, as far as this is related to specific (categories of) products or services, that may be regarded as commercially sensitive information;
- ❖ Publishing of the average price or of the price bandwidth within the sector;
- ❖ Exclusivity for specific members to represent producers and importers;
- ❖ Boycotting specific suppliers or customers;
- ❖ Any other topic that could lead to coordination of market behaviour restricting competition;
- ❖ Pre-consultations between competitors when responding to invitations to tender (in tender procedures with both public and private purchasers);
- ❖ Agreeing that all competitors add a surcharge to their bid (which would then be used for "compensating" the bidding costs of those companies that would not win the tender).

TOPICS THAT MIGHT PRESENT A PROBLEM

The following topics might, under certain circumstances, present a problem from a competition law point of view, but especially in a highly concentrated, oligopolistic market (i.e. a market with only few players). This means that these topics shall at all times only be discussed within the context **The European Welding Association**, in proper consultation with an expert in the field of competition law:

- ❖ General terms and conditions of sale and delivery. If these pertain to sensitive competitive parameters (e.g. prices, rates, manner of indexation, on-charging specific costs) or if the use of the conditions is mandatory, the competition authorities may object;
- ❖ Restrictions on participating in trade fairs. As a general rule, each company should be free to participate in any trade fair it likes and companies should not be asked to boycott any trade fair. Restrictions to this freedom to participate are only allowed under specific conditions. Collective bargaining by the members of the European Welding Association, to obtain a better price or other conditions from the trade fair organisation does not constitute a problem under competition law;
- ❖ Schemes for recognition/membership criteria. For as long as recognition or membership of **The European Welding Association**, does not play a decisive part for the potential customer when choosing a product or service, there are no objections to this from a competition law point of view. As soon as the customer does find this important, however, these schemes must satisfy specific criteria;
- ❖ The secretariat of **The European Welding Association**, is allowed, in principle, to collect commercial information about individual companies and to make this information available to the members in an aggregated manner. It must in any event be absolutely guaranteed that no information on individual companies can be deducted from this aggregate information. In some EU countries the national competition authorities will only allow such statistics systems if the collected information can be qualified as sufficiently historical, e.g. (depending on the circumstances) presenting data of at least one year before, and/or if the information is made publicly available.

TOPICS THAT DO NOT PRESENT A PROBLEM

The following topics constitute the core business of most of **The European Welding Association's** activities and discussions and consultations on these topics do normally not present any problem under competition law, provided that the topics mentioned under A. are not touched upon:

- ❖ General cyclical economic data and business climate, as long as discussions on these topics do not relate to any individual company's behaviour. These discussions focus on the macro level and do not affect any company's behaviour in the market;
- ❖ Lobbying activities relating to general interests in the sector and concentrating on legislation and other public issues which may affect the sector;
- ❖ Labour law and social issues. These issues are considered to be irrelevant under competition law;
- ❖ Legal issues. These issues are by definition of a general nature, as these will affect any company's business to the same extent;
- ❖ Standardisation issues, if (i) the standard-setting procedure is transparent and open for participation by any interested party, (ii) there is no obligation to comply with the standard, (iii) access to the standard is provided on fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory terms, and (iv) any discussions within the standard-setting procedure are restricted to technical aspects. Standardisation is aimed at compatibility of products and at technical progress; this will normally be to the benefit of the end user;
- ❖ Safety and health issues. **The European Welding Association** has an interest in enhancing safety and health with respect to the use of the sector's products;
- ❖ Environmental issues. The European Welding Association, has an interest in enhancing protection of the environment with respect to the use of the sector's products.



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