



UNION des FOIRES INTERNATIONALES

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Press release

UFI 68th Annual Congress moves from Cairo, Egypt, to Cologne, Germany

Paris, 24 September 2001 - UFI, Union des Foires Internationales, the world association of trade fairs and exhibitions, has decided with great regret to move its Congress, originally scheduled on 17 - 19 October in Cairo, Egypt, to Cologne, Germany, on 18 - 20 October.

After the dramatic events of 11 September 2001 in the USA, and considering the preparation of an imminent reply of the US forces and allies, many prospective participants are reluctant to travel to the Near East and to register for the Congress in Cairo.

"By moving the Congress to another venue, and by maintaining nearly the same date, the world association of trade fairs and exhibitions follows its obligation to offer the leading forum of the industry for the discussion of basic questions between the leaders from all parts of the world. We have also decided to include a panel discussion concerning the situation and the prospects of the trade fair and exhibition industry after the 11 September 2001" said Prof. Dr. Manfred Busche, President of UFI.

Vincent Gerard, Managing Director of UFI, added that Cairo certainly would be reconsidered to be the host of the UFI Congress as soon as possible, and probably in 2003. The 2002 Congress is planned to take place in Munich, Germany.

UFI in Paris is informing all participants and preparing a modified programme. This is done with the assistance of KölnMesse GmbH, whose President and Chief Executive Officer, Jochen Witt, has promised to provide any support that may be required.

