



Press Contact:

Colm Clarke, Executive Director  
IFES Management Office, Brussels  
Email: [info@ifesnet.com](mailto:info@ifesnet.com), Tel: +32 2 627 01 63, Fax: +32 2 645 26 71

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **IFES Membership Restructured for 2010, new partnership launched with Expopedia.net**

Brussels, Belgium (20 November 2009) – The IFES General Assembly has voted for a restructuring of IFES membership in order to launch several new initiatives in 2010.

IFES has formalised the structural changes to the organisation which were agreed in its June AGM. An Extraordinary General Assembly was held on 26 October in Brussels to confirm the necessary amendments to the IFES statutes and facilitate the implementation of several key initiatives in 2010. Following the meeting, the IFES leadership has been actively working on the transition plan. The new structure will take effect on 1 January 2010.

Central to the new structure will be allowing individual companies to participate alongside national associations as full members. The national associations which have supported IFES will continue to be key partners in developing and growing the IFES membership and knowledge base. The associations which are part of the IFES network will be able to offer IFES company memberships at special rates to their members.

This combination will give IFES the best solution to retain the knowledge and network which has been developed for 25 years whilst also opening IFES up to a broader international audience and encouraging active participation from new members, wherever they may be located.

IFES Members will also benefit from a new partnership agreement with [www.Expopedia.net](http://www.Expopedia.net), the international Trade Show Service Finder. The IFES network has facilitated the collaboration between IFES members but now partnership with Expopedia will bring the same principal of sharing trusted suppliers to a much wider audience. The Expopedia search engine has been designed with the aim to connect professionals with the service partners they need, either local to the event they are participating in, or local to the professional making the search.

IFES has been at the forefront of supporting the delivery of International Exhibition & Events services through a trusted supplier network. The approach has demonstrated multiple benefits such as increased quality for the exhibitor, cost effective solutions and the key objective of increasing the sustainability of Exhibiting worldwide.

IFES will take the lead in working on the core issues and initiatives for the industry and Expopedia will provide the technological and commercial platform to facilitate making international business connections.

#### **About IFES**

IFES is the international umbrella federation for all national/country associations whose member-companies are active in the exhibition-services- and event-marketing-sector. The purpose of IFES is to promote the commercial, professional and socio-political interests of its country member associations on an international level.

Founded in 1984, IFES grew from a few countries into a global organisation with 27 member countries. Today, IFES represents more than 1600 Exhibition Industry companies. IFES is the only organisation dedicated to the specific needs of exposition designers and providers of tradeshow services.

[www.ifesnet.com](http://www.ifesnet.com)