

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear colleagues of WFEO,

In continuation of a long-standing, active presence at WFEO, the National Committee Switzerland would be delighted to contribute actively to the further development of WFEO through a representative in the Executive Council. Following the Swiss principle and tradition, the National Committee Switzerland is dedicated to an overall world-wide perspective with a regional focus on Europe.

According to the Global Innovation Index, Switzerland remains one of the most innovative countries in the world. This leading position can be attributed to high public and private investment in research and innovation, a high-class academic environment with internationally renowned universities and a prosperous economic landscape with numerous multinational companies and an even greater number of small and medium enterprises.



But this leading position has its downside. The other side of the coin is a greater burden on the environment. Switzerland's ecological footprint is very high compared to the global biocapacity. In the Cleantech Master Plan, the Swiss Federal Council aims to achieve the vision of a "footprint of one". We are still a long way from achieving this, but our companies, universities and institutes are working intensively towards this goal. Innovations are made, solutions and products are developed, advisory services and educational programmes emerge as well as international initiatives with Swiss roots (myclimate, World Resource Forum, Etc.). Our objective is to achieve the SDGs and to promote engineering education and mobility, to share our experience and innovations and last but not least to learn from world's best practice. Many of our engineers are active internationally and keen to work for and with WFEO.

I am a mechanical engineer with international and industrial experience and currently immediate past-president of the National Committee WFEO/ENGINEERS EUROPE Switzerland and member of the WFEO Executive Committee. I have spent 25 years of my career in the industry, in R&D, project management, sales and general management positions, followed by 15 years in the recruitment of engineers for clients in the industry. I am still active in this field. You may address me in French, German, English or Dutch and am currently learning Czech.

As member of the board and former president (2009-2019) of GII\* (Society of Industrial Engineers), I manage a resource efficiency project in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and VDI (Association of German Engineers). Resource management and circular economy, Engineering Education (future skills requirement) and relation with the industry are topics of particular interest that I would like to pursue within the WFEO.

Increasing awareness to apply engineering and technology to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals is crucial and we need to make sure that industry is fully involved, both by taking the necessary steps to increase the sustainability of their processes as well as by producing the equipment, products and solutions that are necessary to achieve the SDGs.

In this context, the promotion of engineers, men and women, whether in terms of education, mobility or support in their careers, is paramount.

And finally, we need to get all European non-members on board to share their innovations and solutions with other regions of the world.

I therefore have great interest and would be very pleased to continue to take an active part in the executive Council of WFEO as National Member. I am looking forward to the evaluation process and remain at your disposal for potential questions

Yours sincerely  
Alexandre Kounitzky

\*) GII is a professional society of SIA (Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects). SIA together with Swiss Engineering STV are the professional organizations forming the WFEO National Committee Switzerland.

**Date of birth:** 28 December 1955 in Haarlem (Netherlands)  
**Civil status:** Married, 2 daughters (1989) and (1991)  
**Education:** MSc. in mechanical engineering  
Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), Zurich, Switzerland  
Executive MBA  
University of St. Gallen (HSG), St. Gallen, Switzerland  
**Languages:** French and Dutch: mother tongues  
German and English: fluent



## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2005 – Ongoing **A.Cavegn AG**, Zürich, Switzerland  
International executive search, recruitment of engineers for the industry  
Founding Partner, owner and managing director

2003 – 2004 **Portescap (Danaher Corporation)**, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland  
Specialty and mini motors for medical hand tools and electronic industry  
Managing Director Switzerland + VP Sales Europe

2000 – 2003 **Rothrist Tube Inc. (today Benteler Rothrist AG)**, Rothrist, Switzerland  
Precision welded steel tubes for the automotive industry  
Vice President Sales and Marketing

1996 – 2000 **MAG-Plastic SA (Jean Gallay SA)**, Geneva, Switzerland  
Stretch-blow-molding machines for the production of PET bottles  
Deputy Managing Director

1994 – 1996 **ABB Power Generation AG**, Baden, Switzerland and Beijing, PR China  
Power Plant Control Systems  
Manager Business Development China

1990 – 1994 **Sulzer-MTU Casting Technology GmbH**, Winterthur, Switzerland and Munich, Germany  
Development of precision casting processes for single crystal turbine blades.  
Management of a Brite-Euram European research project.  
Joint venture manager

1987 – 1990 **Sulzer, Jet Engines Division**, Winterthur, Switzerland  
Head of Marketing and Sales, responsible for Hawk and F18 industrial offset projects.

1985 – 1987 **Sulzer International**, Winterthur, Switzerland  
Assistant and Deputy of the Regional Manager Latin America.

1982 – 1985 **CCM-Sulzer SA**, Paris, France  
Commissioning Engineer, Diesel engines

1981 – 1982 **Federal Institute of Technology (ETH)**, Zürich, Switzerland  
Institute for measurement and control systems.  
Assistant

## EXTRA-PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018 – Ongoing **WFEO / FEANI National Committee Switzerland**  
President (2021 – 2024) and actual Past-President

2022 – Ongoing **WFEO**, National Member, Member of the Executive Council

2005 – Ongoing **Society of Industrial Engineers (GII)**, a professional society of SIA  
Resource efficiency project in cooperation with the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment and the Association of German Engineers (VDI)  
Member of the Board (2009 – Ongoing)  
President (2009 – 2019)