

Interview with Steven L. Hanft, M.A.

Secretary-General, Cosmetic Consultants Europe (CCE)

EURO COSMETICS: *Mr. Hanft, as we understand it, you are the Secretary-General of a growing, productive association, which is Cosmetic Consultants Europe (CCE). Could you please tell us how it began?*

Steven L. Hanft: In early 2014, the 'seeds' for Cosmetic Consultants Europe (CCE) were planted based on an initial meeting of three business leaders at 'Cosmetic Vision' in Cannes, France. This trio included Sra. Ana Rocamora, cosmeticsinMind, Dr. Isabel Ramos, Bit Beauty Intelligence, and Dr. Annelie Struessmann, CONUSBAT Regulatory Services. Then, at In-Cosmetics Hamburg 2014, CCE was finally conceived!

EURO COSMETICS: *Could you tell us something about what your association is intended to provide?*

Steven L. Hanft: CCE was established under-Belgium law with an office in Brussels (Diegem), Belgium. It is designated to represent & defend common interests and ethics of its Members in scientific, technical, regulatory, business and legal affairs. The transfer of knowledge from the Members to their Clients is in a consequence based on a common understanding which is far superior to the "one-consultant" response. As of today, more than 24 corporate members have joined CCE, and as the word spreads about the value provided, the membership is steadily increasing. Our intention is to provide what we call "Integrative Consulting" and we present ourselves as an industry association accelerating B2B cooperation and knowledge transfer based on agreed standards.

EURO COSMETICS: *Please tell us some of CCE's plans for further expansion and letting potential clients know about the value of its consulting members.*

Steven L. Hanft: CCE has planned its first 'Open Academy' for Monday, 16. October 2017, which will be held at the premises of the Spanish Society of Cosmetic Chemists (SEQC) in Barcelona, Spain. CCE members will lend their expertise on various topics



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related to the field of cosmetics. Our mission is to educate interested parties on latest advances in our field, to gain guidance on topics with key interest for future CCE Academy events and to promote membership visibility. As such, CCE wishes to further accelerate B2B interaction, provide in-depth knowledge that will expand horizons and point to opportunities for cross fertilization and technology transfer among various specialties.

EURO COSMETICS: *What is CCE's basic premise for existing?*

Steven L. Hanft: As an Industry Association of consultants, CCE responds to the needs & requirements of the cosmetic sector and consultation thereto. The Members, representing a group of experts in this field, pursue exchange about technical, regulatory, business and legal contents and promote standardized agreements in topics of importance. The Association conducts three main types of activities in order to fulfill its aim:

- To study, promote and defend the collective interests, moral and material of its members without involvement in their in-

dividual activities;

- To represent its Members against third parties, in particular against public and private organizations, and to defend the Members' general interests.

- To seek recognition by organizations of relevance in its fundamental nature, as well as in its objective and mission. CCE is a non-governmental organization in the EU, and acts as such.

EURO COSMETICS: *Who are the members of CCE?*

Steven L. Hanft: The vast majority of CCE's members are located in Europe (mostly within the current EU 28 member states). Members are engaged in the providing of services to the cosmetics industries and the cosmetics' supplier industries. CCE does accept members with their operations in non-EU nations. An example is De Lucca Mano (DLM), a legal health regulatory service provider, which is located in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

EURO COSMETICS: *What types of expertise does CCE's membership possess?*

Steven L. Hanft: CCE's member companies provide the following services for the cosmetics, personal care, fine chemicals and borderline industries:

- Regulatory Affairs – legal compliance with cosmetics and chemicals' laws, safety assessments, notifications, registrations, etc.
- Regulatory Representation – responsible person, REACH only representative
- Research, formulation & technical assistance
- Microbiological, chemical & toxicological testing
- Strategic, global marketing
- GMP auditing & expertise
- Information Technology – tools and support

EURO COSMETICS: *Who are CCE's board members and what are their positions?*

Steven L. Hanft: All CCE board members are

elected for a two year term and the following individuals were elected in 2016 as executives:

- President:
Dr. Annelie Struessmann (CONUSBAT)
- Vice Presidents:
Ana Rocamora (cosmeticsinMind)
& Remco Schade (CosTec)
- Treasurer:
Pere Adell Winkler (Kosmetikon)
- Secretary General:
Steven L. Hanft (CONUSBAT)

For further information on CCE, please see our website:
www.cosmeticsconsultantseurope.org

EURO COSMETICS: *What are CCE's goals and so far, what has it achieved?*

Steven L. Hanft: CCE is organized in Working Groups (WGs) which assure the elaboration of its goals and performance. These WGs include: Legal Affairs, IT (Information Technology) & Training. The WGs melded their forces towards organizing CCE's first 'Open Academy' for 16. October 2017 in

Barcelona. Twelve CCE members will lend their expertise on various topics of key importance towards the industries we serve.

EURO COSMETICS: *How does CCE interact with the cosmetic industry? Does it integrate itself with other sector industries, and if so, which ones?*

Steven L. Hanft: CCE provides a common platform to its Members; whereas, each Member has its own expertise and takes its approach to working with Clients. For the most part, our members concentrate on the cosmetic, personal care, fine chemical industries. CCE also addresses issues to related industries, which include but are not limited to: the food, pharma, medical devices and biocidal industries.

EURO COSMETICS: *Is CCE membership strictly for micro enterprises and/or SMEs? Can mid-sized companies join?*

Steven L. Hanft: The majority of the Member companies are SMEs, yet CCE is open to companies of any size and has already

Members with >250 employees.

EURO COSMETICS: *What challenges were crucial for a decision to implement a new association of European consultants to the cosmetic industry?*

Steven L. Hanft: Increased demands mainly from the regulatory and information technology areas. These demands are of particular importance for smaller companies. However, in certain specialized areas multinational companies also need to reach beyond their internal resources to outsource tasks and acquire skills and knowledge. From these needs, a new industry was born. This is the consultants industry for scientific, technical, regulatory and legal affairs which CCE serves. In order to create their common working standards and ethics, this new association was formed to meet existing and future challenges in this work fields.

EURO COSMETICS: *Thank you for the conversation.* ■

CCE's 1st Open Academy
16 October 2017, Barcelona

Cosmetics Consultants Europe