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## European DIY Retail Association Global Home Improvement Network

Current Affairs in the Home Improvement Industry

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What makes the  
**GLOBAL  
DIY-SUMMIT**  
worth attending?

## **Registrations Today for the 10th Global DIY-Summit!**

Mark your calendars for an unparalleled experience in the heart of Rome! We are thrilled to announce that registrations are officially OPEN for the highly anticipated 10th Global DIY-Summit, taking place **from 11 to 13 June 2024 at the iconic La Nuvola - Rome Convention Center.**

This year, we're gearing up for a groundbreaking event set against the backdrop of Rome's modern architectural gem. The summit is poised to welcome a record number of retailers, industry leaders, and DIY enthusiasts from across the globe, converging to explore, engage, and strategize on the future of the DIY industry.

**Our theme, "Embracing Change in DIY: How to Thrive in the Never Normal,"** encapsulates the ethos of innovation, adaptability, and resilience within the DIY sector. Join us as we delve into forward-thinking strategies, game-changing innovations, and invaluable insights tailored to help you not just adapt but flourish in an ever-evolving industry landscape.

**Register Now!**

**Download the Programme**

### **In Memoriam: On the Passing of Frank Loncar.**

Francis "Frank" William Loncar, 70, of Cleveland, NC, passed away on Thursday, January 4, 2024, at Lake Norman Regional Medical Center.

He was born February 6, 1953, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, to the late Francis Edward and Joan Laura (Bumbernick) Loncar.

His distinguished and successful business career began in his hometown at Glosser Bros. department store, where he established lifelong friendships and business relationships.

His journey as a leader and executive for various companies took him to every part of the United States and around the world, culminating in his role as President of Lowe's Global Sourcing, from which he retired in 2013.

Frank's professional accomplishments were surpassed only by his loyalty as a friend and his love for his family. Frank is survived by his loving wife, Gert (Greecher) Loncar; dear children, Joshua and wife Katrina (Diehl) Loncar, Amanda (Loncar) and husband Rob Kloo, and Damian and wife Jamie (Ashcom) Loncar; and adoring grandchildren, Zachary, Alexander, Isaac, Elliot and Eliza.



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

## **South America: Change at the top of Cencosud.**

Heike Paulmann Koepfer has resigned from her position as chairwoman of the board of directors of Cencosud. A statement issued by the Chilean retail group at the beginning of December cites personal reasons for her decision. She retains her status as a director. Heike Paulman Koepfer is the daughter of Cencosud founder Horst Paulmann. She assumed his position in 2021. The new Cencosud CEO is Julio Moura, a Brazilian who has been with Cencosud since 2011 as head of the Jumbo supermarket chain.



The Chilean group of companies operates in the DIY store business with its Easy sales division. It has just opened its 41st Easy store in the city of La Unión. The store has a sales area of just under 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> and stocks a range of around 15,000 SKUs.

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

## **Global: Publication of the Garden Trend Report 2024.**

Organizzazione Orlandelli is pleased to translate and distribute the new 2024 Garden Trends Report by Garden Media Group to offer industry professionals a glimpse into the future. GTR24 presents seven upcoming trends positioned to influence consumer behavior in the coming year, united by the overarching theme of eco-optimism.

The report provides an analysis focused on seven distinct buyer personas: Digital, Bold, Charming, Eclectic, Elevated, Hopeful, and Incisive. Readers select the persona that best represents them, which takes them directly to the corresponding trend. At any time, people can return to the beginning or explore other trends effortlessly. This dynamic experience allows readers to navigate directly to the trends that resonate with them, making the report a personalized journey of inspiration and discovery.

Download the report for free here  
[www.orlandelli.it](http://www.orlandelli.it)



## **Germany: OBI wants to Further Digitalise its Supply Chain.**

OBI will be working with Tradebeyond, a provider of supply chain solutions for retail companies, to digitalise its supply chain. The spectrum ranges from supplier management to its sourcing, quality, order management, and production processes for their own sourcing organisation OBI Group Sourcing (OGS) in Asia.



Tradebeyond will replace OGS's existing manual systems with cloud-based solutions. These

are based on real-time data and should enable the DIY chain to bring products to market faster and more cost-effectively. The implementation will take place in stages, with the first stage scheduled to go live at the beginning of 2024.

The company also links OBI's decision to the tightening of ESG regulations across Europe, including the upcoming EU directive on due diligence in corporate sustainability, which will require retailers to meet higher standards and collect more data than ever before.

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

## **UK: Interview with John Mewett: Screwfix – the Omnichannel Pioneer you need to know About.**

Retail Gazette recently spoke to CEO of Screwfix, John Mewett, to discuss how the business has built its empire and how it will stay a market leader.



The Kingfisher-owned hardware business is ensuring its shoppers are not missing out on a single penny by creating the quickest, most efficient shopping experience.

Screwfix's convenience credentials include one-minute click and collect at all its near-900 UK stores, 60-minute or less delivery and as of late November, a partnership with Deliveroo.

"For our customers, time really is money," says chief executive John Mewett, "when they're not working, they're not earning money."

"Being able to get hold of the things they need to do the jobs quickly is really important so our focus has been around making sure that we can serve them quickly as possible."

Read the interview in full  
[www.retailgazette.co.uk](http://www.retailgazette.co.uk)

## **France: Brico Dépôt opens new Compact Format store in Vierzon.**

Brico Dépôt has opened a new store in Vierzon offering an optimized experience for customers. It is a compact format, the second, just under 40 kilometers from Bourges.



The concept is based on dedicated spaces, as well as on innovations and services designed to simplify the experience of customers and employees.

In the store, customers can find all the small self-service products (electrical, plumbing, hardware, lighting and small tools), a project area, a tinting machine and digital terminals that allow customers to view the entire assortment and order larger products yourself.

A collection area has been created where staff prepare orders and customers can collect bulky items which can also be collected at one of the 4 drive-through kiosks in the depot (for online orders).

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

## DACH: Festool has a new Managing Director for Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Since October 2023, Jens Graner has been the new Festool Managing Director for the Germany, Austria and Switzerland regions. Graner succeeds René Kruk, who has taken over management of global sales at Festool since July 2023.



According to the official press release from the tool manufacturer, Jens Graner is a profound expert in the tool industry, particularly in specialist retailers, and a veteran of Festool sales. Ganer takes over management of the sales companies in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

The 47-year-old father started in 1997 - at that time at Festo AG - and spent over 15 years in various sales functions in Germany and Austria until he took over sales management at Festool and Protool. A job at another brand in the power tool sector then enriched his wealth of experience.

[www.eisenwaren-zeitung.de](http://www.eisenwaren-zeitung.de)

## USA: NHPA Independents Conference and The Hardware Conference to Create Singular Event in 2024.

In August 2023, the North American Hardware and Paint Association (NHPA) hosted its inaugural Independents Conference in Dallas, Texas. Just a few short weeks later, The Hardware Conference marked its 35th anniversary in Marco Island, Florida.



In 2024, these two highly respected industry events, both focused on celebrating independent home improvement retailers and providing them with the tools they need to elevate their businesses, will be coming together to form one, singular event—The Independent Home Improvement Conference.

"Last year it became very clear both of our events had the same goal—helping independent retailers engage with one another, learn from one another and find ways to make their businesses more competitive and profitable," says Craig Cope, owner of The Hardware Conference. "Why wouldn't we find a way to bring all of these benefits together to create the Rose Bowl of events for independent home improvement retailers?"

"The two events had distinct benefits they offered attendees and we both sought to create a climate where independent retailers of all types and affiliations could come together to spend time focusing on making their businesses better and stronger," says Dan Tratensek, NHPA chief operating officer.

The new Independent Home Improvement Conference will take place August 27-29 at the JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort in Marco Island, Florida.

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

## Europe: Mr. DIY aims for Romania and Bulgaria.

Malaysian home improvement retail powerhouse Mr. DIY continues to look for European opportunities and is set to open in two eastern European countries after announcing its planned Polish entry. *DIY International* learned that the company, which established its presence in Turkey and Spain three years ago, is planning to enter Romania and Bulgaria.



Based on data from Termene.ro, a database of Romanian companies, Mr. DIY Romania SRL was established on 28 August 2023 and is headquartered in Calea Grivitei 84-98 in Bucharest. It lists "retail trade in non-specialised stores" as its main activity. Meanwhile, data from commercial register search engine papagal.bg indicate that Mister DIY Bulgaria EOOD (transliterated as Mr. DIY Bulgaria) was registered on 6 December 2023. It is a sole proprietorship with limited liability and is headquartered in the Sredets district of Sofia, the capital city. The company is set to engage in the "retail sale in non-specialised stores of various goods". It lists Mr. DIY Malaysia's vice president for Group Strategy Sathis Manoharen as the manager.

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

## EDRA/GHIN Pathway to Net Zero Carbon

### Renewable Energy Growth Jumps by 50% in 2023, On Track to Overtake Coal Next Year: IEA

Renewable energy capacity experienced its strongest growth in decades in 2023, with a 510 GW increase in global capacity additions in the year, up by 50% over 2022, with China emerging as a key driver of the global growth, according to a new report released today by the International Energy Agency's (IEA).

With the dramatic increase seen over the past year, the "Renewables 2023" report found that the world is now on track to grow renewables capacity by 2.5x by 2030, putting the global goal established at the COP28 climate conference to triple renewable energy capacity by the end of the decade within reach, and to overtake coal as the largest source of global electricity generation by early 2025.

IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol, said: "The new IEA report shows that under current policies and market conditions, global renewable capacity is already on course to increase by two-and-a-half times by 2030. It's not enough yet to reach the COP28 goal of tripling renewables, but we're moving closer – and governments have the tools needed to close the gap."

China was a key driver of the global renewables growth, according to the report, with the country adding as much solar PV capacity over the past year as that commissioned in the entire world in 2022, while also growing its wind power additions by nearly two thirds. China also accounts for nearly 90% of the IEA's upward renewables forecast revision, with solar PV capacity representing the bulk of the increase.

## The New European Regulation on Ecodesign will Prohibit the Destruction of Unsold Textiles.

The lines of the European regulation on ecodesign are becoming clearer after a trilogue agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. This text, eagerly awaited by manufacturers, must make European products more sustainable. Banning of certain substances, ban on destroying unsold items in certain sectors, requirement for reparability... The details for each product category will be specified in the coming months.

This is a major step forward for Europe. The Council of the European Union and the European Parliament reached a provisional agreement on December 4 on ecodesign. Highly anticipated, it introduces rules to make a wide range of products more sustainable, recyclable and less resource-intensive. The text will replace the 2009 ecodesign directive which focused on the energy efficiency of products.

[www.novethic.fr](http://www.novethic.fr)

## More than Two Thirds of Companies Planning to Upskill Workforce for Climate Change Megatrend: PwC CEO Survey.

A significant majority of CEOs are planning, currently undertaking, or have already completed a series of actions to prepare their companies to address the risks and opportunities presented by climate change, including two thirds looking to upskill or reskill their workforce, and more than three quarters innovating new, climate friendly products or services, according to a new global CEO survey released by professional services firm PwC.

For the study, PwC's 27th Annual Global CEO Survey, PwC surveyed more than 4,700 CEOs across 105 countries.

The survey indicated that CEOs are more optimistic about global economic growth than in the prior year study, with fewer than half (45%) anticipating a decline in growth over the next 12 months, compared to 73% last year, with lower perceived exposure to factors such as inflation, economic volatility and geopolitical conflict.

Respondents listed climate change as having one of the most significant increases as a factor driving change in the way their companies will create, deliver and capture value, with 30% of CEOs anticipating a "large" or "very large" change over the next three years, compared to only 22% over the past 5 years.

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

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