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WARSAW TO HOST 51ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN HOTEL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION (EHMA)

28–30 March 2025 | Leading Theme: “Hospitality by Design”



Rome, 21 March 2025 – The European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA) is delighted to announce its **51st Annual General Meeting (AGM)**, scheduled to take place in the historic heart of **Warsaw** from **28 to 30 March 2025**. Building on the success of last year’s milestone 50th anniversary celebration, EHMA remains committed to its founding principle of **excellence in hospitality** while adapting to the ever-evolving landscape of the global industry.

EHMA EUROPEAN HOTEL MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

www.ehma.com/warsaw2025

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EHMA's Journey: A Legacy of Excellence

Founded in Rome in 1974 as a non-profit organisation dedicated to raising service standards in Europe's luxury hospitality sector, **EHMA today has grown into a prestigious network of nearly 500 members across 24 European countries. Representing more than 400 hotels, 86,000 rooms, and 66,000 employees, EHMA has been a driving force in shaping the future of European hospitality.** For over half a century, the Association has championed leadership, innovation, and service excellence, setting benchmarks for global tourism standards and ensuring the industry's continued evolution.

"As EHMA embarks on its next half-century, we are more committed than ever to leadership, innovation, sustainability, and service excellence," says Panos Almyrantis, **President of EHMA, National Delegate for Greece & Cyprus, and Chief Growth & Commercial Officer at Ella Resorts in Athens.** **"Our initiatives and future strategies go beyond mere adaptation; they aim to set new industry benchmarks and lead by example.** We will continue to cultivate a strong sense of camaraderie among our members while **driving the boundaries of excellence in hospitality.** The past 50 years have been extraordinary, and the future holds even greater promise."

Why Warsaw?

Warsaw, a city where centuries-old grandeur meets forward-thinking innovation, provides the perfect backdrop for EHMA's upcoming discussions. Its iconic landmarks from the meticulously restored Old Town, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site,** to bold contemporary architecture—exemplify the delicate balance between heritage preservation and modern progress. **Named European Best Destination 2023,** Warsaw has emerged as a dynamic hub for design and hospitality innovation, offering an inspiring setting that will ignite meaningful dialogue and fresh perspectives among attendees.

"We are delighted to welcome our EHMA colleagues to Warsaw," says Paweł Lewtak, **General Manager of the Polonia Palace Hotel, EHMA Vice President and National Delegate for Central Europe.** **"Our city perfectly embodies the fusion of history and modern innovation, setting an inspiring stage for this year's AGM.** As we explore **"Hospitality by Design,"** we underscore the **crucial role of thoughtful planning, sustainable practices, and forward-thinking collaboration in shaping the future of luxury hospitality.** For accompanying persons, a specially curated **Royal & Cultural Programme** will reveal Warsaw's regal heritage, vibrant arts, and culinary delights, ensuring an unforgettable immersion in this remarkable city."

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“Hospitality by Design”: Leading Theme of the EHMA AGM

The 2025 AGM, themed “Hospitality by Design,” will explore how a **design-centric approach can redefine the industry**. Discussions will delve into enhancing hotel interiors, elevating guest experiences, integrating cutting-edge technologies, and advancing sustainable practices. These pivotal areas mark a new era in European hospitality—one that aligns with the **modern traveller’s pursuit of both inspiration and responsibility**.

Highlights of the EHMA 51st AGM

From the moment guests arrive on **Friday, 28 March**, anticipation will be in the air. The **EHMA President** will officially open the **51st Ordinary General Meeting**, guiding attendees through the approval of core documents and reports, then moving on to **Members’ Time**, featuring interventions by **Mr Erik-Jan Ginjaar** and **Mr Philippe Clarinval**. Next, **London** will be presented as the host city for the **52nd EHMA Annual General Meeting in 2026**, followed by the introduction of candidate cities for 2027.

The day’s formal proceedings will culminate with the **Elections for President, 1st Vice President, Vice President, and the Boards of Auditors and Arbiters**, concluding an essential chapter in EHMA’s governance.

Prof Ian Millar and the **Young EHMA Group 2025** will then take the spotlight, sharing forward-thinking insights into the **pioneering spirit of tomorrow’s hoteliers**.

Next, attention turns to “**EHMA Best Practices 2024: Why the Ultimate Hotel Guest Experience Matters?**”—a showcase of groundbreaking initiatives that reinforce the Association’s commitment to excellence. The **EHL Hospitality Business School** and **Nolan Cornell** will provide **valuable insights** from two of foremost **hospitality institutions**, enriching the discussion with their expertise. The **introduction of new EHMA members** will further highlight the organisation’s ongoing growth and evolution, paving the way for the **Results of Elections** that will bring the session to a close. With official matters concluded, guests will gather in the **Ludwikowska Ballroom** at the **Polonia Palace Hotel** for a vibrant **Welcome Cocktail & Reception**.

Amid lively conversations and new connections, the evening will set the perfect tone for the days ahead.

On **Saturday, 29 March**, the **Renaissance Warsaw Airport Hotel** will buzz with **creativity and insight** as it hosts the **Educational Day Conference** under the theme “**Hospitality by Design**.” **EHMA President Panos Almyrantis**, **Organising Committee Chair Paweł Lewtak**, and **City of Warsaw representative Maciej Fijałkowski** will open the session, setting the stage for a day of thought-provoking discussion.

The Organising Committee is honoured to welcome these **exceptional speakers** who

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bring invaluable expertise and insights to the event: **Paweł Motyl** - Expert in Strategy, Leadership and Decision-Making; **Andrzej Wodecki** - Professor, Executive Trainer; **Paola Gariglio** - Senior Manager, Innovation & Strategic Programmes, Hospitality IT, Amadeus; **Manuel Engelsthal** - Head of Corporate Real Estate Management, STRABAG SE; **Christoph Steindorf** - Business Development Leader, Diversey Europe; **Onno & Alexa Poortier** - Founders, NOW Transforming Hospitality GmbH; **Andres Fellenberg Van Der Molen** - Owner and Managing Director, Green Partner Audits & Consultancy B.V.; **Nick Driessen** - Sales Director Out of Home, Heineken; **Marco Truffelli** - Mpsych, MBA, Hotelier, Psychologist; **Paola Vulterini** - Disability Advocate, Valueable Network; **Ian Yeoman** - Professor of Disruption, Innovation & New Phenomena; **Joanna Jurga** - PhD, Spatial Designer, Researcher, and Educator; **Adam D. Tihany** – Designer; **Clare Shine** - Fellow and former CEO, University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership; Crown Estate Commissioner; **Szymon Marciniak** - Football Referee.

That evening, the **Grand Ballroom** of the **Sheraton Grand Warsaw** will take center stage for the prestigious **Awards Gala Dinner**. This dazzling celebration will honour **excellence in hospitality**, with EHMA presenting esteemed accolades, including **European Hotel Manager of the Year**, the **Hans Koch Lifetime Achievement Award**, and the **Sustainability Award by Diversey**. This glamorous celebration of excellence will highlight the **passion, dedication and innovation that unite Europe's top hotel general managers**.

Finally, on **Sunday, 30 March**, guests will gather for a **heartfelt Farewell Brunch** at the **Ludwikowska Ballroom** at the **Polonia Palace Hotel**, marking a perfect end for a memorable meeting. As the weekend draws to a close, this final gathering will offer a chance to reflect on **shared experiences, strengthen new connections, and depart with lasting memories of an inspiring weekend in the heart of Warsaw**.

EHMA's dedication to nurturing the next generation of hospitality leaders is exemplified through **Young EHMA and Emerging Leaders** programmes, designed to inspire and empower emerging talent, ensuring the industry's continued vitality.

The **exceptional programme in Warsaw** is the result of the unwavering dedication of the **EHMA Organising Committee and the invaluable support of EHMA's partners**, who stand unwaveringly by the Association whose commitment continues to **drive the Association's success**. Among these valued partners are Acqua di Parma, Amadeus, APS, Axpro Concept, Blastness, Canary Technologies, Casale del Giglio, Nolan Cornell, De Cecco, Diversey A Solenis Company, EHL Hospitality Business School, France24, Frette, Gascón, Getpica, Hästens, Heineken, Hotel Management International, Ingenia Direct, Journal des Palaces, Kuohu Artesian Water, La Bottega, Laurent-Perrier, Lavazza, Markas,

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Maurel, MobieTrain, NOW Transforming Hospitality, Preferred Hotels & Resorts, RESILIRÉ Psychological Growth, Rivolta Carmignani, Samsung, Scent Company, Villeroy & Boch, each playing a pivotal role in championing EHMA's vision and bringing this remarkable gathering to life.

Among the distinguished members of the Organising Committee are **Mr Paweł Lewtak**, General Manager of the **Polonia Palace Hotel** and **National Delegate for Central Europe**, **Mr Artur Derela**, General Manager of the **Renaissance Warsaw Airport Hotel**, **Mr Levent Cengiz**, General Manager of the **Sheraton Grand Warsaw**, **Ms Magdalena Elias**, General Manager of the **Bristol, A Luxury Collection Hotel, Warsaw** and **Mr Dominik Chrapek**, General Manager of the **Double Tree by Hilton Lodz**. Their invaluable leadership and expertise played a crucial role in ensuring the ongoing success of the event.

About the European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA)

Founded in Rome in 1974, the European Hotel Managers Association (EHMA) is a prestigious non-profit organisation committed to excellence in Europe's luxury hospitality industry. With a membership of nearly 500 top professionals overseeing more than 400 premier hotels across 24 countries, EHMA fosters leadership, innovation, and the highest service standards. Through educational initiatives, networking events, and industry research, EHMA drives knowledge-sharing and professional growth while shaping a sustainable, forward-thinking future for European hospitality.

Website: <https://ehma.com>

Event Website: <https://ehma.com/warsaw2025/>

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