

What Afera did in 2024 > and what Members can expect in 2025 and beyond

The Association's Annual General Assembly was held online on 19 November 2024. What Afera did in 2024, including our strategy and accomplishments, as well as our plans for 2025 and beyond, were the topics of presentation, discussion and voting. Member Companies Atlas Tapes (Greece), NAR (Italy) and Tacon/Tape Converters Holland (The Netherlands) have joined the Steering Committee.



General Assembly 2024

Held every year following the second set of the biannual Technical, Marketing and Steering Committee Meetings, Afera's General Assembly (GA) routinely covers the goals and accomplishments of each Committee, the financial report (2023 end-of-year figures, latest 2024 Budget projection and 2025 Budget and Membership Fees),

the Composition of the Steering Committee, the next event dates and venue for 2025, and any other matters which have been raised by Members beforehand.

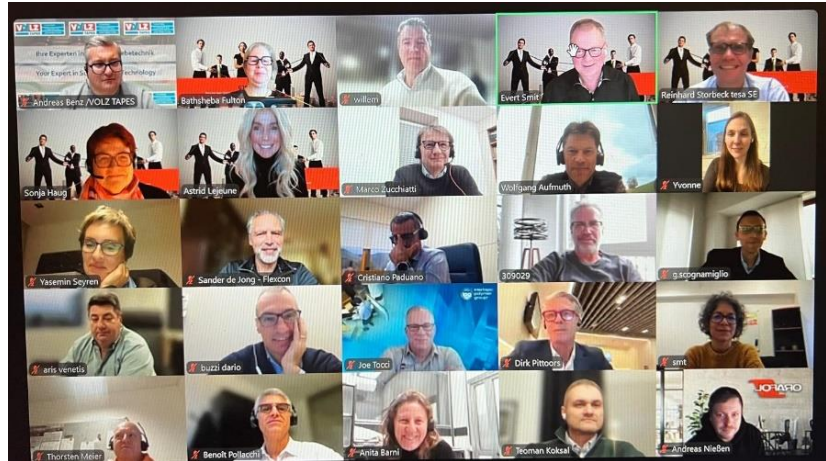
Held online for a fifth time, Afera's 67th GA took place on Tuesday, 19 November, attended by a majority of Afera Members, and was voted upon by 59.18% of the Active Membership. Voting on 4 items during the GA (the GA 2023 Minutes, Budget 2025 and Membership Fees 2025, and one candidate plus Composition of the Steering Committee) took place among the 29 Active Members (tape manufacturers) present. Each of these Member Companies had 1 ballot to cast on each item up for vote during the Meeting using the Zoom polling feature. The [slide presentation](#) and [recording of the Meeting](#) (passcode: .42%xv2r) (both Members only) were made available to all Members following the Meeting.

Afera President [Evert Smit](#) (chairman of the Afera Steering Committee (SC) and director scouting for sustainability, technology and innovation at Lohmann GmbH & Co KG) presided over the event, first reviewing Afera's Competition Law Compliance Policy and then reviewing the Minutes of the GA 2023, which were approved.

The Association's mission

Mr. Smit then reviewed our [mission](#) and strategy: Afera, the European Adhesive Tape Association, unites stakeholders along the value chain of the European tape industry, to ensure and increase the relevance of the tape industry in the world of tomorrow.

As a non-profit organisation, Afera provides a platform for tape trade expertise in order to enhance the product, the business and the future of the adhesive tape market in Europe. Afera is widely known and valued as the go-to community of the European tape industry for both industry and non-industry stakeholders. Stakeholders connect within the Afera community to address current and future key topics, which individual stakeholders cannot tackle themselves.



Where Afera is today and will be tomorrow

As Mr. Smit mentioned in his opening address at the Thessaloniki Conference in September, the Association has strengthened in terms of Membership recruitment (welcoming 8 new Members in the last year) and also in our evolving emphasis on the issues that matter into our industry.

These include higher-quality events: The [67th Annual Conference in Thessaloniki](#) was organised with a robust, 3-day programme according to feedback from the year before; and the 68th Annual Conference and [11th TechSem](#) will be [merged into one event in 2025](#). In all our activities, we are focussing on serving the interests of both specialty and commodity adhesive tape manufacturers. Afera's current Membership represents 80% of the European market share.



Afera Flagship Sustainability Project's (AFSP) Workstream 1 is readying our [Product Carbon Footprint \(PCF\) calculation tool TACK](#), which we have been developing with IVK, for [launch in Q1/Q2 2025](#). Afera continues to publish guidances and position papers pertaining to E.U. legislation: Afera's Regulatory Affairs Working Group's key taskforce activities currently include issuing a position paper defining the status of tape products as either packaging or not packaging; defining what products and raw materials are in the scope of EUDR and require due diligence; monitoring developments of the system for submission of due diligence; and exchanging experience and discussing best practices for preparing reports under CSDR.

The 2024 Edition of the [Afera Test Methods Manual](#) was published online in February, and every Afera Member received free digital access. It is password protected and available to non-Members for a fee. Current test method (TM) developments are focussed on the revision of Peel Adhesion TM (ISO 29862:2018) and a new CEPI Lab TM on recyclability of fibre-based packaging.

We collaborated internationally in working towards and attending the [7th Global Tape Forum \(GTF\) and Global Test Methods Committee \(GTMC\) Meetings](#) held at CATIA's technical seminar in Shanghai, China, in April. We will support the organisation of and attend the 8th set of Meetings in Tokyo in 2026. It is also Afera's goal to step up Industry awareness of the GTF, the creation of which was driven by Afera to enhance the worldwide adhesive tape market by providing a global forum for all tape trade associations, enabling them to add greater value to their memberships.

Welcome to our new Members



Afera has increased [our visibility in Industry print and online media](#) and on Member materials ([product brochures](#) and [exhibition stands](#)).



Activities of the Committees

The current and future activities of the Committees and Working Groups within Afera were then presented by Marketing Committee (MKC) Chairperson [Sonja Haug](#) (global ESG, sustainability and regulatory affairs manager at Loparex Europe), Technical Committee (TC) Chairman [Reinhard Storbeck](#) (head of polymer and adhesive architecture R&D at tesa SE) and Mr. Smit. For more details, read the GA Minutes [here](#) (Members only).

Strategic areas of focus within the Steering Committee (SC):

- Overseeing [AFSP](#) and the roll-out and launch of [Afera's PCF calculation tool TACK](#).
- Engaging with Members about managing regulatory affairs, future tape industry workforce, AI, etc.
- Ensuring a high standard and quality of Association events, which for 2025 will mean the trial merging of Afera's two annual events into an [Afera European Tape Week in 2025](#).
- Engaging with Industry about building future user confidence in adhesive tape technology, especially through external events and media.
- Strengthening our partnerships with organisations in adjacent technologies and other (international) bodies for mutual learning and support in industry-wide activities and issues: GTF & GTMC Meetings, IVK, TfS, Cefic, CELAB Europe, European, etc.
- Engaging external (paid) support to create systems and structures of value within the Association to manage sustainability, regulatory affairs, standardisation and communications.

- Ensuring Afera’s adherence to our set strategy while evolving with Industry needs. This will include revisiting our set strategy in 2025.

Over the past year, there have been several changes in the Composition of Afera’s SC. After two dedicated terms, İbrahim Hatipoglu (CEO of Egebant) decided to step down, opening up a position for a converter. Ian Grace (technical sales manager at artimelt AG) also stepped down, because artimelt, a supplier, is already represented on the SC. Finally, Jean-Loup Masson left his position at Novacel, creating an opening for a tape manufacturer. Ms. Lejeune had thanked them for their diligent work and sought and received nominations for these SC positions among Afera’s Member Companies. In addition, Mr. Storbeck had been re-elected by the TC to serve another term. Following voting, the following slate was ultimately approved:



Steering Committee Composition

Representing	Company	Candidate	Until
Tape Manufacturer	Lohmann	Evert Smit (President)	9/2027
Tape Manufacturer	Nitto	Dirk Pittoors	9/2026
Tape Manufacturer	tesa	Reinhard Storbeck (TC)	9/2027
Tape Manufacturer	Atlas	Aris Venetis	9/2027
Tape Manufacturer	NAR	Carlo Maria Righetti	9/2027
Converter	Tacon	Yvonne van Zadelhoff	9/2027
Supplier	Artimelt	Melanie Ott	9/2027
Supplier	Loparex	Sonja Haug (MKC)	9/2026

Finances and Membership Fees

Mr. Smit reported that basically Afera is performing quite well and can continue to move into the future, pursuing our Industry mandate. A review of the financial balance sheet of 2023 revealed a slight negative result, an acceptable amount of assets in the bank, and roughly the same levels of equities and liabilities as the year before. Mr. Smit emphasised that Afera is a non-profit organisation and therefore not focussed on turning a profit but maintaining financial stability.

So far, Afera has not exceeded its budget on the TACK development project, but this may change in 2025. The estimated final balance for 2024 is slightly more positive than had been projected, as the Tape College and Annual Conference attracted more sponsorship and attendees than expected. This surplus will be kept in the bank for future expenses. 2025's budget projects a slightly positive final balance. Membership Fees have been indexed by 3% to correct for inflation. Following a vote, the Budget 2025 and Membership Fees 2025 were officially adopted.

2025-2026 events

Afera events

Networking | Education

Afera Committee Meetings

1-2 April 2025 | NH Düsseldorf City NORD
Düsseldorf, Germany

Afera European Tape Week

68th Afera Annual Conference, 11th Technical
Seminar & Committee/Sustainability Meetings
22-26 September 2025 | Hyatt Regency Thessaloniki
Thessaloniki, Greece

Afera Annual General Assembly 2025

November | Online

8th Global Tape Forum (GTF) & Global Test Methods Committee (GTMC) Meetings

17-19 November 2026 | Hamamatsucho Convention Hall
Tokyo, Japan



For more details about Afera's activities, programmes, leadership and finances, read the complete GA 2024 Minutes [here](#) (Members only). For more information about Afera and Afera Membership, visit www.afera.com.