

ETW 2026 programme sharpens its focus on leadership, strategy and tape know-how

With registrations coming in at record levels, the latest ETW 2026 programme shows Porto taking on clearer shape across both the 69th Annual Conference and the 12th Tape College, while Afera-appointed hotel rates remain available until 30 June 2026.

As Afera's 2nd European Tape Week continues to take shape, the [latest programme](#) shows a week that is becoming more focused and more deliberate in how it brings the industry together. Across both the 69th Annual Conference and the 12th Tape College, the Porto agenda is being built not only to inform, but to help participants make better sense of the technical, commercial and strategic environment in which adhesive tape businesses now operate. With registrations already coming in at record levels, that direction is clearly resonating.



The overall structure of the week remains one of ETW's defining strengths. By bringing together technical learning, strategic discussion, Association activity and industry networking in one setting, Afera is again offering a format that reflects how the tape business actually functions across roles and across the value chain. In Porto, that integrated concept is now being expressed through a programme that feels sharper in both its business and technical emphasis.

Business leadership and the wider operating environment

That sharper focus is especially visible in the Annual Conference, where some of the most prominent sessions now centre on leadership, resilience and the wider operating environment. Rather than treating competitiveness as an abstract theme, the programme approaches it through the perspectives of economists, CEOs, general managers and senior business leaders who are dealing directly with uncertainty, cost pressure, supply-chain risk and global market shifts.

A key anchor in that regard will be Andrea Boltho of the University of Oxford, whose Friday morning presentation, *The global economic outlook: How will Europe do?*, is set to bring a broader macroeconomic frame to the programme. In a Conference built around resilience and competitiveness in the global tape business, that contribution carries obvious relevance. It places the industry's own concerns within a wider European and international context and helps set up the sessions that follow.

That Oxford perspective is then carried forward through a strong sequence of business-leader presentations from within the tape value chain itself. Giovanni Scognamiglio, general manager of Alimac Group, will examine supply-chain and input-cost resilience through the lens of an Italian carry-handle tape SME, while Richard D. Holder, CEO of Loparex, will turn to supply chains, trade and global competition in a presentation directed specifically at the European adhesive tapes industry. Together, those sessions should give participants both a wider economic view and a more grounded industry reading of the operating environment.

The Thursday programme reinforces that direction further. Daniel Heini, CEO of ATP Group, is set to address strategic management in a changing global tape industry, with a focus on resilience, regionalisation and transformation, while Elodie Picard of Henkel will look at strategic resilience and sustainability across adhesives, tapes and packaging. Taken together, these contributions suggest an Annual Conference that is not simply commenting on change but looking closely at how companies can respond to it.

From tape chemistry to finished systems



On the Tape College side, one of the clearest threads running through the programme is how tape performance is built across the full construction of the product. Rather than concentrating narrowly on one material or one process step, the agenda moves through adhesive chemistry, backing materials, release systems, production and end use, giving participants a fuller picture of how performance is designed into a finished tape system. That makes the 2026 Tape College particularly well-

suited to participants who want to understand not only the individual parts, but how those parts work together.

This is especially visible in the *Tapes deconstructed* sessions. Presentations on acrylic PSA technology, emulsion polymers, block copolymers, hotmelt PSA formulations, silicones, viscoelastic properties, polymeric foams and release coatings build up the technical story layer by layer. The same theme then continues into sustainability and production, with Mikko Rissanen of UPM Specialty Papers addressing design for recycling and value-chain collaboration, followed by sessions on co-extrusion manufacturing, coating and drying technologies, and tape conversion.

The Wednesday morning programme adds another practical layer to that arc. Surface treatment, regulation, reliable tape testing, Afera's Flagship Sustainability Project (AFSP) and the versatile PSA world all help round out the College as a broad but coherent introduction to how the tape business works in practice. For participants newer to the industry in particular, that combination of

fundamentals, process knowledge and current sector topics should make the programme especially useful.

Momentum builds around the Tabletop Exhibition

Momentum is also building around the new [Tabletop Exhibition](#), which is increasingly taking shape as an important part of the week's overall format. According to the latest programme, exhibitors confirmed so far include [H.B. Fuller](#), [Valco Melton](#), [Loparex](#), [Nowofol](#), [Elite Cameron](#), [Ichemco](#), [Henkel](#), [Hueck Folien](#), [Mondi](#), [Indafor](#), [a Mativ Brand](#), [Bostik](#), [Uncountable](#) and [Hoenle](#).

With registrations already coming in strongly and [Afera-appointed hotel rates](#) at the [Pestana Douro Riverside](#) guaranteed until 30 June 2026, Porto is clearly emerging as more than a conference venue for ETW 2026. It is becoming a broader industry meeting place where technical learning, strategic discussion and business exchange come together in one setting.



Further information

- [Afera 2nd European Tape Week website](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Hotel](#) > Use promotion code: AFERA2026
- [Programme](#)
- [Tabletop Exhibition](#)
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