

European Tape Week 2026 heads for Porto with final programme in place

With the ETW 2026 programme now finalised, registration nearing 200 and Afera-appointed hotel rates available only through 30 June, Porto is shaping up as the European adhesive tape industry's strongest meeting point of the year.

Porto dates, venue and momentum



[Afera's 2nd European Tape Week](#) will take place from 21–25 September 2026 at the [Pestana Douro Riverside in Porto, Portugal](#), bringing the adhesive tape value chain together for a full week of technical learning, business exchange, strategic discussion and Association work. With the programme now finalised and registration proving the strongest ETW has seen at this stage, the event is already showing the kind of momentum that confirms its growing

place in the industry. **Participants still wishing to benefit from Afera-appointed hotel rates should note that those rates are only guaranteed through 30 June.**

One week, four connected elements

That momentum is grounded in the format itself. European Tape Week combines four connected elements in one setting: the [12th Tape College](#), [69th Annual Conference](#), [Afera Committee Meetings](#) and the [new Tabletop Exhibition](#). Together, they create a broader and more integrated format than a stand-alone conference or technical seminar, reflecting more closely how the industry works across materials, technologies, markets, regulation, sustainability and business strategy.

The Tape College: Technical grounding across the tape system

The week opens with the 12th Tape College, running from 21–23 September. Designed especially for participants who are newer to adhesive tape technology or who want to deepen and broaden their technical understanding of the sector, the College offers four sessions over three days and more than 20 presentations, discussions and technical exchanges. It begins with the fundamentals of why tapes work and how PSA tape technology is built, then moves through adhesive technologies, polymers, backings, sustainability, release systems, production, converting, tape use and testing. The result is a programme that gives participants both a grounded introduction and a fuller picture of how performance is engineered into a finished tape system.

Why this year's Tape College themes matter

That technical emphasis feels especially relevant this year because several of the issues now rising highest in the European adhesive tape value chain are closely tied to product construction and process choice. Sustainability and recyclability are becoming more demanding and more technical in practice. Value-chain co-operation around design for recycling is rising in importance. Release systems, coating technologies, testing methods and surface treatment remain central to both performance and manufacturability. The 2026 Tape College responds directly to those pressures, with presentations ranging from acrylic PSA technology, hotmelt formulations and silicones to polymeric foams, release coatings, tape conversion, surface treatment, reliable tape testing and Afera's latest sustainability and regulatory work.

The Annual Conference: Strategy, markets and the operating environment

Midweek, the focus broadens as the 69th Annual Conference begins on 23 September and runs through 25 September. If the Tape College is designed to strengthen technical understanding, the Annual Conference is aimed more squarely at senior decision-makers, business leaders, managers and specialists looking for market intelligence, strategic perspective and a sharper reading of the operating environment. Across two and a half days, participants will be treated to around 20 presentations, panels and keynote-style interventions covering sustainability, regulation, resilience, competitiveness, market data, global economics and geopolitical risk.

The issues rising highest on the Conference agenda

This year's Conference theme, *Resilience and competitiveness in the global tape business*, is especially well-chosen. Many of the issues now shaping the European adhesive tape sector sit at the intersection of cost pressure, regulation, regional manufacturing strength, customer expectations, supply-chain reliability and wider political and economic uncertainty. That is visible throughout the programme. Thursday morning opens with regulatory compliance, sustainability and circularity, including sustainable paper-based liners, Afera's Flagship Sustainability Project, European tape regulation and a U.S. regulatory update. It then shifts into business resilience and competitiveness, with sessions on AI-ready R&D, regional versus global strategy and the pressures reshaping packaging, tapes and adhesives markets.

Afera welcomes Maria Sofia Fagni of FABO

Afera is especially proud to announce the addition of Maria Sofia Fagni, CEO of FABO S.p.A., to this year's Annual Conference line-up. As a family-led, internationally active Italian manufacturer of self-adhesive tapes, with particular strength in packaging tapes, printed tapes and solvent-free adhesive tape technologies, FABO SpA sits very close to several of the issues Afera Members are currently discussing: changing customer expectations, sustainability, cost pressure, operational resilience, global competition, supply-chain reliability and the continued strength of European manufacturing. Her presentation, *Packaging tapes in a changing market: Resilience, customer expectations and European manufacturing strength*, should therefore bring a timely and highly relevant manufacturer perspective to the programme.

Friday's macro and business leadership perspective

Friday deepens that strategic focus further. Andrea Boltho of Oxford University will open the day with *The global economic outlook: How will Europe do?*, placing the sector's concerns within a wider macroeconomic frame. Giovanni Scognamiglio of Alimac will then examine how an Italian tape SME is using governance transition, value-chain co-operation and regulatory awareness to build long-term competitiveness. Rich Holder of Loparex will turn to supply chain, trade and global competition in the European adhesive tapes industry, before Alex Chausovsky closes with a keynote on geopolitics, tariffs and business complexity in 2026. Together, these sessions reflect some of the most urgent topics in the sector right now: industrial resilience, the future of European manufacturing, AI and data readiness, sustainability compliance, market intelligence, trade disruption and the shifting global economic climate.

The Tabletop Exhibition gains traction

The programme also makes clear that ETW 2026 is not only about listening but connecting. The new Tabletop Exhibition is becoming an increasingly important part of the overall format, creating a more visible and structured space for business exchange during the week. It offers exhibitors a practical opportunity to present products, technologies and services directly to participants moving between the Tape College, Annual Conference and networking functions, while giving delegates a more concentrated view of what is happening across the value chain.



A line-up that signals wider industry confidence

That opportunity is already proving popular. According to the final programme, exhibitors confirmed so far include H.B. Fuller, Valco Melton, Loparex, Nowofol, Elite Cameron, Ichemco, Henkel, Hueck Folien, Mondy, Indafor, a Mativ Brand, Bostik, Hoenle, GEW, Uncountable and XJY Silicones. The strength of that line-up adds to the sense that ETW 2026 is evolving into more than a conference and more than a technical seminar. It is becoming a fuller industry meeting place in which learning, market insight, visibility and business interaction reinforce one another.

Strong registration underlines the event's position

With registration already nearing 200 — the strongest early take-up ETW has seen so far — that evolution is clearly being recognised by the market. For Afera, this is an encouraging sign not only for Porto but for the wider role European Tape Week is beginning to play. For the industry, it is a signal that this year's edition is likely to be one of the most concentrated opportunities of 2026 to understand the

issues shaping the European adhesive tape value chain, meet the people confronting them directly and take part in the conversations that matter most.

Haven't made your hotel booking yet?

Afera has secured a preferential rate at the [Pestana Douro Riverside](#) for ETW 2026 participants, but those Afera-appointed rates and room availability are only guaranteed until 30 June 2026. After that date, the room block will be released, and availability and appointed rates will no longer be guaranteed.

To book, participants should go directly to the [hotel website](#), enter their arrival and departure dates, select **Promotion Code**, enter the group code **AFERA2026** and click **Search** to view the available rooms and rates. As rooms are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, early booking is strongly recommended.

Important - Room availability deadline

Afera can guarantee the preferential room rates and availability until **30 June 2026**.

After this date, our block of rooms will be released. Availability and appointed rates will no longer be guaranteed, and potential registrants will have to contact the hotel on their own accord. If and when the hotel becomes fully booked, Afera will be happy to provide a list of alternate accommodation options in the area.

Booking your hotel room

Afera has secured a preferential rate at the Pestana Douro Riverside Hotel, Porto, Portugal, exclusively for ETW 2026 participants.

Room rates start from:

€195 (single) / €210 (double) per room, per night

(Breakfast included)

The block of rooms is available for stays of up to 3 days before and after the event dates of 21-25 September 2026.

How to book

Please book your room directly via the [hotel website](#):

1. Enter your arrival and departure dates
2. Select "Promotion Code"
3. Enter the group code: [AFERA2026](#)
4. Click Search to view available rooms and rates.

Further information

- [Afera 2nd European Tape Week website](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Hotel and promotion code: AFERA2026 \(scroll down\)](#)
- [Programme](#)
- [Tabletop Exhibition](#)
- [Sponsorship](#)

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