

UWLA Open Forum Meeting

Minutes/Notes

Tuesday 30 June 2026 – 14:15 hrs CET – Hybrid

Chair

- Lee Cartwright – UWLA Managing Director

Minutes/Notes

- Diane Cartlidge – UWLA Associate Administrator

Attendees in Person

- Armando Afonso – ANQIP
- Judit Almunia – Roca Sanitario
- Anne-Claire Bruant – FECS
- Mark Falcan – International Plumbers Network
- Markus Gantenbein – Geberit – UWLA President
- Timo Kopka – Laufen Bathrooms
- Patrick Piechotta – Hansgrohe AG
- Nick Post – Hydraloop
- Tom Roberts – International Code Council
- Carla Rodrigues – ANQIP
- Paul Skinner – UWLA Technical
- Jonathan Weigand – Globus

Attendees Online

- Pau Abello – Roca Limited
- Francesco Balducci – Manifattura Srl
- Neil Baxter – Mira Showers
- Daphne Doody-Green - BA
- Martin Dunisch – Megabad Gmbh
- Elmar Esser - IAPMO
- Mike Fox – IKEA of Sweden AB
- Henk Giesken – Nineteen Group Ltd
- Ramon Guixa – Sedal SLV
- Ole Hackstein – Klundi Gmbh
- Sabrina Li – Kohler Mira Showers
- Peter Makin - Methven
- Maurizio Manfroi – Ceramica Dolomite
- Maite Serra - Agrival
- Patrick Wittwer – Geberit

1 Meeting Opening

(a) Welcome and Apologies

Markus Gantenbein, President, extended a warm welcome to all participants.

(b) Competition Law Reminder

All participants were referred to the UWLA Competition Law Statement, available at www.uwla.eu. This statement outlines the boundaries for discussion and decision-making to ensure compliance with the Competition Act.

2 Previous Minutes

Minutes dated 25 November 2025 previously circulated were approved with no amendments or Action Points carried forward.

3 Governance

(a) Proposed Structure to align with ESPR – With Association leadership changes during the past year; this provided an opportunity to review the UWLA Governance Structure. Following a strategic review meeting between the President and Managing Director to assess the current organisational framework and, with guidance provided by Fiona Felix on governance considerations associated with the European Sustainable Products Regulations (ESPR), it was proposed to establish an Executive Committee to improve decision-making, responsiveness and operational efficiency. There was, additionally, a review and clarification of board roles and responsibilities to ensure clear accountability and effective governance. Proposed Structural chart was displayed and approval from the membership provided with no objections raised.

(b) Board Changes – Resignations & Appointments

Resignations

Timo Kopka (Roca/Laufen) – Technical Chair

Henk Gieskens (Lyrical Communication) – Elected Board Member

Appointments

Timo Kopka (Roca/Laufen) – Vice President

Mike Fox (IKEA) – Technical Chair

No objections raised. Ratified by Membership.

(c) Board Elections –

Board Elections are due and scheduled to be ratified at the November 2026 AGM.

The next 2 Newsletters, scheduled for circulation in July and September 2026, will include photographs and short biographies on each Board member, together with agreed roles and responsibilities for the elected positions of President, Vice President, and Committee Chairs.

4 Financial Statement – Figures provided

(a) 2025 Year End Accounts – include a total of £80k in Credit Notes from previous years following an accounting tidy-up: -

- 2025 - £58k

- 2024 - £20k
- 2023 - £2k

and unexpected expenditure in March 2025 of 2 x Director's salaries, £6.4k HR Consultancy Fees, £3.7k Restructuring Costs and £10k ISH Frankfurt costs.

(b) Current Financial Status v Budget Projections

Income is performing well with total income of £105,213, exceeding budget by £6,465 YTD. Overall expenditure is £12,164 above budget largely due to investment in the new label, marketing activities and legal protection costs. The key overspend includes Marketing (+£8,960) and Legal Entity/Trademark costs (+£10,091) which have been partially offset by savings elsewhere. The Association is in a stable position; however, continued control of discretionary spending will be essential throughout the remainder of the year to preserve cash reserves. Reducing the deficit from the previous financial year remains a key priority. Cost saving measures have already been identified and implemented to minimise this year's deficit and avoid reliance on next years' income.

(c) Association Status

- UK Registered Brands – 31
- EU Registered Brands – 46
- Brands Registered Other Countries – 18
- Retailer Brands – 9
- Supporters – 15
- Associations – 4

(d) Membership resignations & Applications

Resignations

- AKW Ltd – Resigned Membership
- Siamp – Resigned Membership
- Smixin Ltd – Liquidation
- Wirquin Ltd – Resigned Membership
- Pro Saving (Shower Jet) – Resigned Membership
- La Torre SRL – Liquidation
- Closomat – Resigned Supporter
- R-Tech – Resigned Supporter
- Orbital – Resigned Supporter

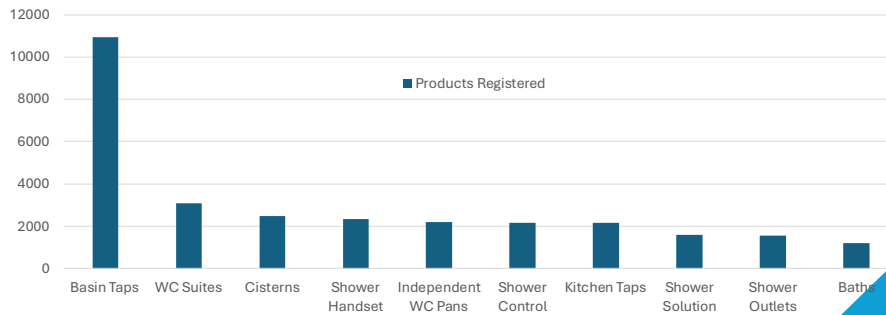
Applications

- Ceramica Catalano SPA – Sanitaryware, Italy
- Essebagno – Sanitaryware, Taps, France
- Fluidmaster D.O.O – Sanitaryware, Slovenia
- Olympia Ceramic SRL – Sanitaryware, Italy
- Rosan Armature D.O.O – Taps, Serbia
- Scarabeo Ceramiche SRL – Sanitaryware, Italy

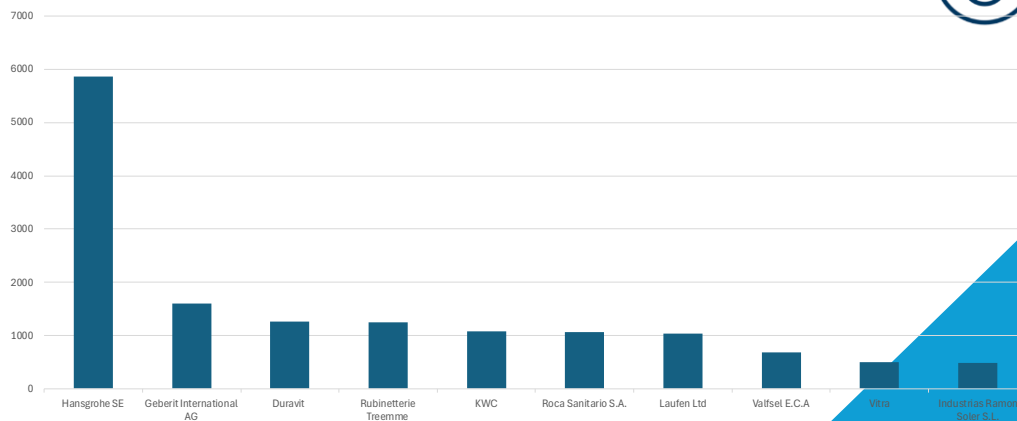
Registered Product by Category



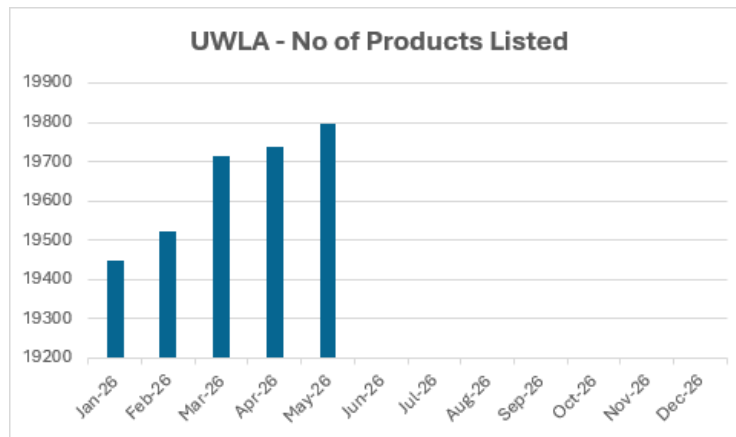
19637 Total Registered



Products Registered by Brand



Registration Movements



A database quality review is currently being undertaken which will include identifying legacy products from former members and member-managed products. Monthly monitoring is to be introduced with any registration changes invoiced monthly. Database accuracy is also proposed for future audits.

5 Secretarial Update

(a) Member Survey

35 responses received from across the membership indicating a strong overall support for the Association and its activities. Technical resource identified as the most valued member benefit with Events and Member Forums also rated highly.

There was some uncertainty around UWLA's identity as a Trade Association vs Certification Scheme. Greater visibility was requested on governance, communications and budget allocation. The key priority for the Association is to strengthen understanding of who we are, what we do and how we deliver value to the Membership.

(b) New Label Launch

Overview provided of progress to date, timescale for launch and visuals of new label. Database development along with Label Guidelines are finalised with launch to the membership scheduled during August 2026. Work in progress includes the UWLA Website update and relative literature.

(c) HR Update

LC provided an update of the current Secretarial Team: -

- Lee Cartwright
Managing Director
- Paul Skinner
Technical Consultant

- Diane Cartlidge
Part-Time Scheme Administrator
Joined March 2026
Administration and Finance Support

6 Marketing & Advocacy Update (Overview)

(a) European Commission

- Ongoing engagement with the European Commission
- Scheme data provided to EC stakeholders
- New label design reviewed with ENV.B.4, ENER.B.3 and ADCO
- Member guidance issued on Directive (EU) 2024/825 (EmpCo)
- Position paper submitted on UK MWELS WTO notification
- Response submitted to proposed EU Taxonomy amendments
- Increased coalition with European trade associations
- **Challenge**
Access to EC working groups due to UWLA not currently being an EU-registered entity

(b) AISBL Registration Status

Previous registration attempt was abandoned; however, registration is considered a strategic priority to support ESPR ambitions. Following initial research key requirements were identified: -

- Brussels registered address
- European Bank Account
- Legal representation (“sign-poster”)

Estimated setup costs circa Eur 10,000 – Eur 15,000 with next steps to compile a budget proposal to be considered for 2027.

(c) UK

UK MWELS Update: -

Technical Working Group established to review WTO notification
Concerns aligned with the Bathroom Association and wider industry
Discussions held with DEFRA and the Environment Agency
Separate UK and EU industry positions presented
Concerns raised with the European Commission
Formal submission made through the UK-TBT process
Original implementation timetable has slipped

Current Position

Awaiting further engagement with DEFRA and the Environment Agency
Industry frustration remains regarding limited communication and clarity

Product Phasing Plan (tbc)

Manufacturer responsibility, Retailer responsibility

* product is new to the market or rebranded, i.e. it has a new model identifier code

Product Categories	Regulations Active	Enforcement Starts +6 months	+ 12 months	+ 18 months	+ 24 months	+ 30 months
Plumbing (Non-electric) Non-electric showers Taps Toilets Urinals		New* products registered and have MWEL	All manufactured products registered and have MWEL		All products sold (stock) have MWEL	
		New* products sold require MWEL	Products sold online require MWEL. Products made from this date require MWEL at point of sale.			
Electric goods Dishwashers Electric showers Washing machines Washer-dryers			New* products registered and have MWEL	All manufactured products registered and have MWEL		All products (stock) have MWEL
			New* products sold require MWEL	Products sold online require MWEL. Products made from this date require MWEL at point of sale.		

UK – Political & Sector Developments

- Ongoing discussions regarding the future ownership of Thames Water
- Growing debate around the ownership of UK utility companies
- UK Prime Minister resignation
- Possible successor has publicly indicated his view that utility companies should return to public ownership
- Potential changes in political leadership and policy priorities may influence future water sector decisions

(d) Daisy Digital Activities

- Social media support partner appointed Jan 2026
- Facebook and Instagram accounts established
- New professional landing page developed with Team Valley
- Organic social media content calendar created
- Member newsletters developed and issued
- Social media posting launched in June 2026
- Analytics now being tracked to measure engagement and performance

(e) Beesocial Activities

- Digital lead generation activity launched in April 2026
- LinkedIn network has grown from 286 to 1,027 connections
- 741 new industry contacts added to the Association's network
- Current growth rate averaging around 20 new connections per day
- Activity focused on building relationships with relevant contacts across UWLA member companies

- Supporting increased visibility, engagement and future membership opportunities

(f) New Label Working Group

A monthly Working Group was established to support development of the new label design which comprised of marketing representatives from member brands. As the design phase neared completion, meetings were paused and reconvened as required, however, a further Working Group will be beneficial to develop an effective strategy for launch and member roll-out of the new label.

(g) Label Visibility Audit Observations

Audit observations on label visibility has been shared with the Marketing Committee with initial feedback sought on comments, concerns and potential implications. These to be considered further as part of ongoing label development and roll-out planning.

7 Technical Update (Overview)

- (a) 2025 Audit Summary** – 5% scheme audit completed for 2025 with results to be reviewed by the Technical Committee. Audit findings have not previously been published; however, greater transparency is required with results to be communicated moving forward.
- (b) 2026 Audit – Proposal** – to review and strengthen the current audit process with consideration being given to expanding the requirements of future audits. Member views on the proposed changes will be gathered via the Technical Committee.
- (c) MWELS Response Working Group** – A Technical Working Group was established to review the MWELS Technical Briefing Document. Findings and observations to be discussed at the Technical Committee meeting with concerns raised directly with the MWELS team.
- (d) Other Planned Activities** - Smaller more focused Technical Working Groups to be established; Electric Showers, Urinal Controllers, Flow Regulators.

7 Any Other Business

UWLA – Summer Closure: -

- Monday 10 August 2026 to Friday 14 August 2026
- Monday 17 August 2026 to Friday 21 August 2026

Date of next meeting – AGM Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25 November 2026

