



DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT
DER PARFÜMEURE

im
SEPAWA e.V.

Conference Report: DGP Spring Meeting 2024

On April 25 and 26, 2024, the Spring Meeting of the “German Association of Perfumers in SEPAWA e.V.” took place in Prague. The meeting, themed “Volatile Times,” provided 41 participants with information on the origins of natural essences, current legal updates, and aspects of fragrance marketing. There was also ample opportunity for personal exchange.

After a communal lunch, the meeting began with a report from the board. DGP president **Dr. Maren Protzen** briefly recalled the 2023 Spring Meeting in Bad Dürkheim, the trip to Tunisia in April 2023, and the DGP activities at last year’s SEPAWA CONGRESS in Berlin. She commemorated two recently deceased DGP members, **Thomas Tuttenui** and **Michael Dischmann**, and also remembered **Wolfgang Blume**, who was connected to the DGP.

the source of nature’s scents and perfume trees.” With scent samples of cedar and frankincense, he transported listeners to the distant past, where the Queen of Sheba offered her frankincense in King Solomon’s temple built of cedar wood.

The rose, as the queen of flowers and fragrances, began its triumphal march in the 8th century when the Persians started producing rosewater. Rose oil was discovered in the 17th century. Today, Bulgaria is the largest producer of rose oil, but traditional cultivation of fragrant roses, such as on terraces in the mountains of Oman and other places, still exists. Labdanum, the resin on the leaves of the rockrose, was long collected by Roma families in southern Spain and thus preserved as a raw material for perfume.



Dr. Maren Protzen, President DGP, Spring Conference 2024

Dr. Maren Protzen shared the positive news that this year the DGP Award was again presented. It was awarded to **Hannes Bitterling**, WALA, for his dissertation “Investigations into heat- and light-induced terpene modifications in essential oils.”

The outlook on upcoming activities included the Call for Fragrance for the SEPAWA CONGRESS in Berlin, themed “Streets of Berlin.” The Spring Meeting 2025 is planned for the end of March in Holzminden, with a visit to the new fragrance museum “Sensoria”.

Dominique Roques kicked off the technical presentations with his very lively and illustrative contribution “A journey to



Dominique Roques, Spring Conference 2024

Dominique Roques also demonstrated the extraction of Peru balsam, benzoin Siam, and elemi, allowing us to enjoy their aromas. These resins are produced through elaborate and sometimes dangerous work, and the question arises whether there will continue to be men who climb 20 meters up a tree with a burning torch on their back for Peru balsam in the future. Appreciating the people who work at the source of natural fragrances is essential for their continued availability.



Scent sample, Spring Conference 2024

Similarly critical is the appreciation of nature itself and the awareness that natural resources can also be depleted. Cedar forests in Lebanon, redwood forests in North America, sandalwood in India, and rosewood in French Guiana are examples of overexploitation and destruction. Rosewood is virtually no longer used in perfumery, and “Indian” sandalwood (*Santalum album*) now comes from Australia. However, better resource management is preferable to a ban, as there are still large stocks of guaiac (bluewood) from Paraguay.



Dominique Roques signed, Spring Conference 2024

Dominique Roques has entertainingly and informatively described his decades of work with natural fragrances in his book “Essences of the World.” Many participants took the opportunity to purchase his book during the meeting.

Jens-Achim Protzen addressed current developments in the regulation of natural raw materials in his presentation “From the lavender fields to the EU Green Deal.” The EU pursues a zero-pollution strategy in its legislation, consisting of 48 individual measures. One of these is the revision of the EU Chemicals Regulation CLP, which also sets rules for so-called MOCS – more than one constituent substances. Essential Oils are all composed of many individual components. For classification, it would be fatal if they were only assessed computationally

as mixtures of individual components. The goal of EFEO (European Federation of Essential Oils) is to determine the properties of Essential Oils through tests on the oil itself.

As a result of the EFEO’s awareness-raising efforts, along with other organizations such as IFRA (International Fragrance Association), it has been achieved that plant extracts that have not been modified can be tested as such. This exemption in the law will be reviewed after five years to determine whether it should continue to exist.



Jens-Achim Protzen, Spring Conference 2024

Anne-Cécile Signoret provided an excellent overview of expected innovations in international chemical legislation for fragrances with “Navigating the current and future regulatory landscape.” After a summary of the deadlines for the new IFRA rules to come into effect, Anne-Cécile showed expected changes in North and South America as well as in Asia. Generally, it is the EU that drives the development of regulations, with other regions following.



Dr. Maren Protzen and Anne-Cécile Signoret, Spring Conference 2024

For potentially allergenic fragrances, the EU now has an expanded list of 82 substances that must be declared in the final product. In the UK, the previous list of 26 substances remains

in effect. The EU Commission has established group designations for various ingredients that must be used in declarations. Anne-Cécile noted positively that the rules for cleaning agents will now come into effect simultaneously with those for cosmetics. She also presented a detailed list of raw materials containing critical ingredients. The very valuable overviews from Anne-Cécile's presentation have since been sent to the meeting participants.

ing. In contrast, it is very difficult to clearly present the carbon footprint of an entire product.

Many claims are insufficiently substantiated or unclear, making them vulnerable. What is a natural fragrance? How is biodegradability defined? And what does "sustainable" mean? Especially for sustainability claims, it is advisable that industries agree on a common understanding of definitions if there is no existing regulation. In general, claims should be scientifically supported, honest, fair, and easy for consumers to understand.

In addition to the insightful presentations and discussions, the DGP offered participants another highlight in the afternoon: scent samples from the Historical Scent Collection from the Odeuropa project (provided by **Bernardo Fleming**, IFF), in which fragrances were created for famous artworks. Twelve paintings were accompanied by olfactory impressions along with visual ones, which sparked great interest!



Silke Weyland, Spring Conference 2024

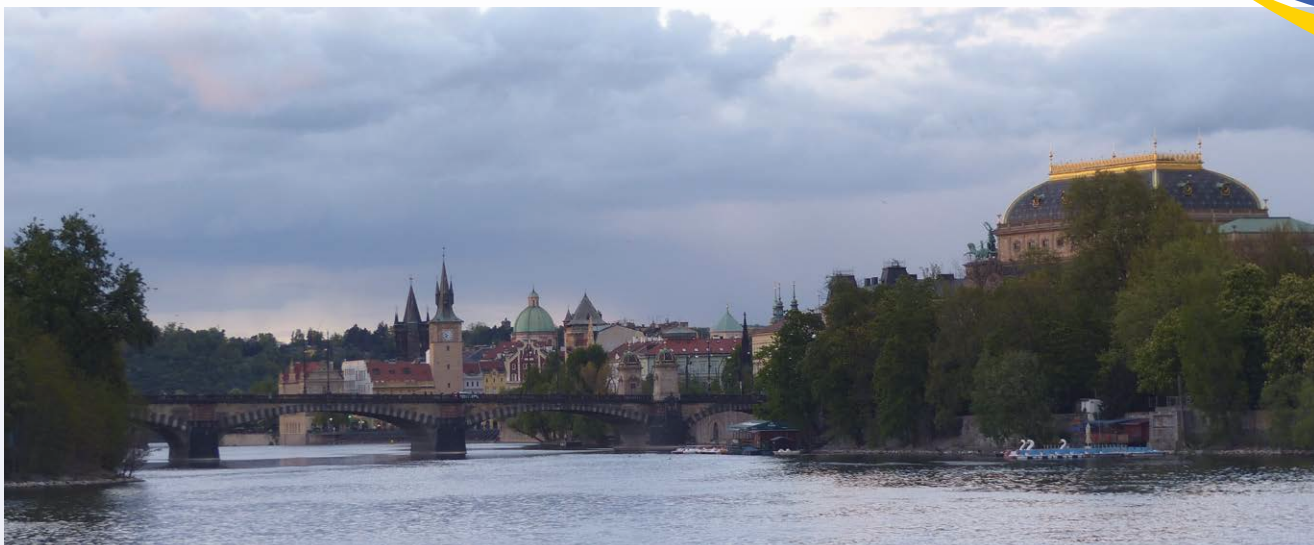
In the last presentation of the afternoon, **Silke Weyland** spoke on "Marketing in the current regulatory environment." Marketing claims from other industries also influence the fragrance industry, for example, in the areas of food, energy, or beauty care. New marketing claims are usually first made with simple examples, then they move on to more complex topics. For instance, with sustainability claims, it is relatively easy to specify the proportion of recycled plastic in packag-



Dominique Roques, Jens-Achim Protzen, Silke Weyland, Anne-Cécile Signoret and Dr. Maren Protzen, Spring Conference 2024



Participants DGP Spring Conference 2024



Discussions in the evening, Spring Conference 2024



Stefan Sonnenberg, Dirk Linder und Lars Schlüter, Spring Conference 2024

Thursday evening featured a boat trip on the Vltava. With atmospheric views of Prague from the water, everyone took the opportunity for personal exchange in a convivial setting.

Friday began with a knowledgeable city tour in Prague, which included a visit to Botanicus at Teynhof.

Afterwards, the group received insights into the production of Prague's and the Czech Republic's most famous aromatic product – beer – during a brewery tour at U Fleku, the traditional Prague brewhouse!

The DGP Spring Meeting 2024 concluded with a joint lunch. The DGP looks forward to seeing many of the participants again at the SEPAWA CONGRESS in October!

Picture Credits: © Dr. Anneliese Wilsch-Irrgang



Brewery tour, Spring Conference 2024

Author

Dr. Anneliese Wilsch-Irrgang | Secretary DGP

Contact:

SEPAWA[®] e.V. Office
Dorfstraße 40 | 86470 Thannhausen | Germany
E-Mail: office@sepawa.de
www.sepawa.com