

## THE INDEPENDENT BREWERS OF EUROPE

The independent craft brewing associations of nine European countries have announced successful discussions towards the formation of a new body, the **Independent Brewers of Europe (IBE)**, whose aim is to work together to promote and advance the mutual interests of their members with the European institutions and media. Bodies from France, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Spain, Netherlands and the Czech Republic, all of whom represent smaller, independent craft brewers, agreed their plan at a meeting in Brussels last week.

With approaching two thousand member breweries, the nine organisations represent a growing proportion of Europe's brewers, producing local, artisanal beers of quality and character that drinkers demand. They employ local people and encourage the responsible consumption of their beers in social settings in their communities. The **IBE** intends to convey its message both politically and commercially in Europe, where the small independent producer's voice is often not heard.

The organisation aims to become a central point of contact for the European institutions and to field representatives to make their case on issues of concern, such as regulation, taxation and access to market, and invites similar bodies from other countries to join them.

Independent Craft Brewers of Ireland, (ICBI) IRELAND  
SIBA, The Society of Independent Brewers, (SIBA) UK  
Syndicat National des Brasseurs Indépendants, (SNBI) France  
Unionbirrai, Italy  
Scanian Beverage Producers, Sweden  
Det Fri Øl, Denmark  
Craft Brewers Netherlands  
Czech and Moravian Microbreweries Association, Czech Republic  
La Asociacion Española de Cerveceras Artesanas Independientes (AECAI)

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