

EURACOAL – Press Release

European Association for Coal and Lignite elects new President and Vice Presidents: Dr.-Ing. Hartmuth Zeiß of Vattenfall becomes President of the Association

Brussels (24 January 2011) – The European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL) elected Dr. Hartmuth Zeiß as its new President. He succeeds Mr. Petr Pudil of the Czech Republic who held the post since the beginning of 2009. Dr. Zeiß, a German national and Chairman of the Managing Directors at Vattenfall Europe Mining AG and Vattenfall Europe Generation AG, brings his 30 years of mining experience to the Association which acts as the voice of coal in Europe.

Dr. Maksymilian Klank, representing the Polish hard coal industry, and Prof. Franz-Josef Wodopia, representing hard-coal mining in Germany, were both re-elected as Vice Presidents and are joined by newly elected Mr. Phil Garner representing the UK coal industry.

After their meeting, EURACOAL members and guests heard Dr. Zeiß thank Mr. Pudil for his leadership of the Association over two years and for his commitment to the promotion of coal and lignite across Europe. Dr. Zeiß took the opportunity to present his views on the challenges for coal. Observing that coal is a secure and competitive fuel for power generation, he said that, “the widespread modernisation of coal-fired electricity plants is a sound strategy, it avoids a dangerous dash-for-gas that would leave everyone paying high power prices”. He showed that investments in more efficient plants, some with CO₂ capture, made strategic sense, and called on policy makers, “to debate how such long-term investments could be encouraged in today’s short-termist markets”. As EURACOAL President, he promised to push for new market incentives for modernisation. EURACOAL has 33 members from 19 European countries. National associations of coal and lignite producers, as well as coal importers associations, companies and research institutes, are all represented at the European level by EURACOAL.

Dr.-Ing. Hartmuth Zeiß is Chairman of the Managing Directors at Vattenfall Europe Mining AG and Vattenfall Europe Generation AG. He was born in 1955 in Leer and studied mining at the historic and renowned Freiberg Mining Academy in Germany before completing his doctorate in Engineering Sciences. He is married with two children. His long professional career at LAUBAG, which in 2001 was acquired by Vattenfall, has seen him take increasingly responsible roles in both mining and power generation. Vattenfall is Europe’s fifth largest generator of electricity and the largest generator of heat. The company operates 12 GW of coal- and lignite-fired power plants, and mines around 60 million tonnes of lignite each year. The parent company, Vattenfall AB, is 100%-owned by the Swedish state and employs approximately 42,000 at operations in Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and the UK.

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Mr. Phil Garner is Commercial Contracts Director at UK Coal plc, the UK's biggest producer of coal. Mr. Garner is also Chairman of the Confederation of UK Coal Producers which represents the interests of coal producers located in England, Scotland and Wales. UK Coal operates three deep mines located in Central and Northern England and has six active surface mines. Mr. Garner has 35 years of experience in the mining industry.

Dr. Maksymilian Klank has worked for the Polish coal industry for 30 years. After reading economics in Katowice and graduating from the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, Dr. Klank began his career as Head of Finance of a Polish hard-coal enterprise. In 1993, he took charge of the Finance Department of the Katowice Coal Holding Company. In 2001, he was promoted to Chairman of the Board. From 2003 to 2006, he was Chairman of the Board of Kompania Węglowa. Dr. Klank is also Vice-Chairman of the Polish Hard Coal Federation, Vice-Chairman of Capital Group FASING Plc and a Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Professor Dr. Franz-Josef Wodopia was born in 1957 in Heidelberg, Germany. The qualified economist first held different posts in the fields of energy and science and then became Professor at the Bochum University of Applied Sciences in Germany. At the Mining, Chemical and Energy Industrial Union (IG BCE), Prof. Wodopia headed the Mining and Energy Industries Department. In mid 2005, he became Managing Director of Gesamtverband Steinkohle (German Hard Coal Association) where he is a Member of the Board.

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