

INTRODUCTION

NV Bekaert SA (the "Company") attaches great value to good corporate governance and is aware that good governance of listed companies is an important factor in investment decisions for all stakeholders of the Company.

As a member of GUBERNA, the Belgian Institute for Directors, the Company is helping to shape a coherent vision of corporate governance based on solid research, cultural norms and practical management needs. The Company thereby does not ignore its history of more than 125 years, and the important role of its long time principal shareholders.

The Company is subject, in descending order of precedence, to applicable laws and regulations (including the Belgian Companies Code (the "Companies Code") and Belgian financial legislation and regulation), to its Articles of Association (the "Articles"), to the 2009 Belgian Code on Corporate Governance (the "CG Code"), and to the present Bekaert Corporate Governance Charter (the "CG Charter").

The Company's Board of Directors has on 22 December 2009 adopted the CG Code as the reference code for Bekaert and revised the CG Charter for alignment with the CG Code.

The Company applies the Corporate Governance Principles laid down in the CG Code. In addition, and except as explained in the CG Charter or in the Corporate Governance Statement of its annual report, the Company complies with the Corporate Governance Provisions of the CG Code.

The Articles and the CG Charter, each in its fully updated version, are available at all times at the investors section of the Company's website www.bekaert.com.

Most individuals in this document are referred to in masculine. Gender specific references should be interpreted as being gender neutral.

PART I: STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

I.1. COMPANY PROFILE

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a global technological leader in its two core competences: advanced metal transformation and advanced materials and coatings, and a market leader in drawn wire products and applications.

Bekaert (NYSE Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing 23 000 people worldwide.

Serving customers in over 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities.

Bekaert's segment reporting presents relevant information on business risks and returns and implies segmentation by geographical market.

I.2. LEGAL STRUCTURE

The Company is the ultimate parent company of the Bekaert Group (the "Group"). For purposes of the CG Charter, the term Group includes the Company and its subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates. The joint ventures are an important part of the Group. A list of the subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates is included in the Group's annual report. Whenever the term "Bekaert" is used in the CG Charter, it refers to the Company and/or the Group as appropriate.

The Company's registered office is at Bekaertstraat 2, BE-8550 Zwevegem (Belgium). Its Group headquarters is located at President Kennedypark 18, BE-8500 Kortrijk (Belgium). The Company's shares are listed on the NYSE Euronext Brussels stock exchange and included in the BEL20 index.

I.3. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The primary decision-making body of the Company is its Board of Directors (the "Board"), under the leadership of the Chairman, with the exception of matters reserved by the Companies Code or by the Articles to the General Meeting of Shareholders (the "General Meeting")(cf. section V.4.2), and subject to the management and operational powers delegated by the Board to the Bekaert Group Executive, the Company's executive management body (the "BGE"), under the leadership of the Chief Executive Officer (the "CEO")(cf. section IV.1).

I.4. REPORTING STRUCTURE

Starting with the 2003 Group Annual Report, Bekaert's consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"), which have been endorsed by the European Union. Under IFRS the objective of the reporting structure is to establish principles for reporting financial information by segment in order to help users of financial statements:

- better understand the enterprise's past financial performance;
- better assess the enterprise's risks and returns profile;
- make more informed judgments about the enterprise as a whole;
- ensure a reasonable level of comparability and comprehensibility of the information.

Effective 1 January 2009 Bekaert has adopted a segment reporting based on geographical segmentation. The new format replaces the former segment reporting which had lost its relevance in view of Bekaert's actual business reality.

The geographical segmentation shapes the basis for Bekaert's financial reporting as it is the best enabler to evaluate the nature and financial effects of its business and to make stakeholders understand the business as a whole in a transparent way. Key in this choice has been the increasing importance of the regions following from Bekaert's growth strategy, with a clear focus on the emerging markets..

Bekaert's regional businesses are typically characterized by common cost drivers, a product portfolio that is tailored to regional industry requirements, and specific distribution channels. They distinguish themselves in terms of political, economic and currency risks and growth drivers of the business. Adding to the relevance of the segmentation is the fact that Bekaert sells approximately 90% of its products in the region where they are produced. Due account was also taken of the system of internal financial reporting to the BGE, the CEO and the Board.

According to the geographical segmentation reporting format four segments have been defined, reflecting Bekaert's presence in four main regions:

- EMEA (Europe, Middle-East, Africa);
- North America;
- Latin America;
- Asia Pacific.