

Press release

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Bekaert nominates Mr. Manfred Wennemer as Director

The Board of Directors of Bekaert acknowledges that Mr. Julien De Wilde doesn't seek re-election to the Board for a new term, and proposed the nomination of Mr. Manfred Wennemer as Director. The appointment will be subject to approval by the General Meeting of Shareholders, which will take place on 13 May 2009.

Manfred Wennemer was Chief Executive Officer of Continental AG from 2001 until August 2008.

He started his career at Procter & Gamble Schwalbach, Germany. After a short period at Arthur D. Little Wiesbaden, Mr. Wennemer took up several management positions in companies and business units belonging to the Freudenberg Group in Germany, South Africa and North America. In 1994 he moved to the Continental Group where he started as CEO of a ContiTech division in Hannover, Germany.

Manfred Wennemer (°1947) holds a Masters Degree in Mathematics from the University of Münster, Germany and an MBA from INSEAD Fontainebleau, France.

Baron Buysse, Chairman of the Board of Directors, stated: *«Mr. Wennemer has accumulated broad international management experience, especially in his role as CEO of Continental, a € 26.4 billion tire and automotive components Group with 150 000 employees in 200 entities worldwide. His appointment would offer Bekaert the opportunity to strengthen its Board of Directors with an independent Director with highly valuable expertise and a strong personality. I also take the opportunity to personally, and on behalf of the Board, thank Julien De Wilde for his valuable contribution to Bekaert's development and results during the past years. We wish him well with his other professional commitments».*

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 (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with headquarters in Belgium, employing 23 000 people worldwide. Serving customers in 120 countries, Bekaert pursues sustainable profitable growth in all its activities and generates annual combined sales of € 4 billion.