

## Press release

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### Press

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## General Meeting of shareholders

- **Gross dividend of €2.80 per share approved**
- **Manfred Wennemer appointed Director**

Today Bekaert's Ordinary General Meeting of shareholders took place, with Baron Buysse, Chairman of the Board of Directors, in the chair.

The meeting approved the balance sheet and the income statement as at 31 December 2008, as submitted by the Board of Directors, including the distribution of a gross dividend of €2.80 per share. This corresponds to a net dividend per share of €2.10. The net dividend on shares with VVPR strip, giving entitlement to a reduced withholding tax of 15%, thus amounts to €2.38 per share. The dividend will be payable as from 20 May 2009 onwards upon presentation of dividend coupon no. 10 at the following banks: ING Belgium, Bank Degroof, Fortis Bank, KBC Bank and Dexia Bank in Belgium, Société Générale in France, ABN-AMRO Bank in the Netherlands and UBS in Switzerland.

The meeting discharged the Directors and the Statutory Auditor for the performance of their duties during the financial year 2008.

The meeting accepted the recommendation to re-appoint Baron Buysse, Baron Bekaert, Count Charles de Liedekerke, and Messrs Bert De Graeve, Hubert Jacobs van Merlen and Maxime Jadot as Directors for a term of three years, expiring after the Ordinary General Meeting of 2012. The office of Baron Buysse as Chairman was renewed for the same period.

Mr Julien De Wilde, whose term has equally expired, has decided not to stand for reelection for a new term and thereby leaves the Board of Directors. In his address, Baron Buysse thanked Mr De Wilde for his commitment and expertise in promoting the interests of the shareholders.

The meeting appointed Mr Manfred Wennemer as Director for a term of 3 years, effective immediately. As from 2010 he will gain the statute of independent Director. Mr Wennemer has acquired a broad international experience through several management positions, notably in his role of Chief Executive Officer of Continental AG. He 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 declared: "Mr Wennemer's extensive and relevant international experience will deliver substantial benefit to the decision making processes of the Board of Directors."

The meeting also approved the remuneration of the Directors and the Statutory Auditor.

Today the Extraordinary General Meeting of shareholders took place as well. The meeting extended the authority granted to the Board of Directors to purchase shares of the Company and adapted the Articles of Association to the new legislation concerning the audit committee.

**Profile**

Bekaert ([www.bekaert.com](http://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 over 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.