

Press release

Regulated information

Press - Investors

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Bekaert announces significant changes to the Board

The Board of Directors of NV Bekaert SA is proud to announce the nomination of six new Directors for appointment by the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of 11 May 2016. The nominations follow a thorough succession planning process which aims at ensuring a Board composition with a broad representation from the international professional community. The nominees will add complementarity, independence, and diversity of professional experience on the Board and will significantly change its composition.

Ms. Celia Baxter started her professional career in 1982 at Ford Motor Company where she took up several management positions. In 1988 she joined KPMG Peat Marwick. After a short period in 1994 at Sherwood Computer Services Ltd as Human Resources Director, Ms. Baxter joined Tate & Lyle Plc where she became in 1997 Director of Group Human Resources. Before joining in 2003 Bunzl PLC (London) as Director of Group Human Resources, she served as Head of Human Resources of Enterprise Oil plc and Interim Group Human Resources Director of Hays PLC. Ms. Baxter is a Non-Executive Director of Senior plc and a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Development at the University of West London. She holds a PhD and BSc in Botany, University of Reading, Berkshire (UK). Ms. Baxter will, once appointed as Director, be independent in accordance with the criteria of the Belgian Companies Code and the Belgian Corporate Governance Code.

Mr. Christophe Jacobs van Merlen joined Bain Capital Europe, LLP (London) in 2004. He was previously a Consultant at Bain & Company in Brussels, Amsterdam, and Boston, where he provided strategic and operational advice to private equity, business services, industrial, and financial services clients. Mr. Jacobs van Merlen is currently Managing Director at Bain Capital Europe and member of the Leadership team and member of different board, audit, operating and M&A committees. He plays a leading role in a variety of investments at Bain Capital. Mr. Jacobs van Merlen obtained a Master degree in Civil Engineering from the Free University of Brussels (Belgium). He also graduated from Ecole Centrale (Ingénieur Généraliste) in France.

Ms. Pamela Knapp is a professional board member since 2014. She is Director of Panalpina Welttransport AG (since 2015), Director of Compagnie de Saint-Gobain SA (since 2013), Director of hkp/// group (since 2013) and Director of PSA Peugeot Citroën (since 2011). Ms. Knapp started her career in 1987 at the Deutsche Bank AG. She took up from 1992 to 2009 several management positions at Siemens AG. From 2004 onwards she served as CFO and member of the management board of the Power Transmission and Distribution Division of Siemens. From 2000 to 2004 she was Senior Vice President in charge of Management Development and Senior Management Compensation for the Siemens Group. In 2009 Ms. Knapp moved to GfK SA as Chief Financial Officer and member of Vorstand. She holds an Economics degree from the Universities of Munich and Berlin (Germany) and followed an Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School. Ms. Knapp will, once appointed as Director, be independent in accordance with the criteria of the Belgian Companies Code and the Belgian Corporate Governance Code.

Ms. Martina Merz is a member of the Board of Directors of AB Volvo (Sweden) and of SAF-Holland SA (Luxemburg). She was from 2012 to 2015 Chief Executive Officer of Chassis Brakes International Group. Ms. Merz graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Cooperative Education in Stuttgart (Germany), and gathered almost 25 years of experience in various management positions at Robert Bosch GmbH. She served as Bosch's Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing and member of the Board of Management Division Chassis System Brakes from 2005 to 2012. Ms. Merz was also formerly Executive Vice President, Closure Systems Division and a member of the Board of Management of Brose Fahrzeugteile GmbH & Co. KG (2002-2005). Ms. Merz will, once appointed as Director, be independent in accordance with the criteria of the Belgian Companies Code and the Belgian Corporate Governance Code.

Ms. Emilie van de Walle de Ghelcke joined Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, an international law firm, in 2009. She is currently Principal Associate in the Brussels office of the firm, and a member of the corporate and finance practice. She advises Belgian and international clients on corporate law, real estate law and financial law matters in various sectors. Her practice covers domestic and cross-border M&A, corporate restructurings, joint ventures, corporate governance and financial law advisory. Ms van de Walle de Ghelcke is a member of the Brussels Bar since 2005. She obtained a law degree from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) and a Master in economic law from the Free University of Brussels (Belgium). She obtained an LLM degree from the London School of Economics (UK).

Mr. Henri Jean Velge started his career in 1981 at Shell (The Netherlands) as Well-site petroleum Engineer. He moved to Brunei in 1982 as Operations Manager and resigned from Shell in 1985 to obtain a MBA program. In 1987 Mr. Velge joined Bekaert as Executive Director of Industrias Chilenas de Alambre (Chile). In 1991 he moved to the United States and became Corporate Vice President Wire Americas in June 1994. In 2001 he was appointed Executive Vice President and became member of the Bekaert Group Executive, responsible for the global wire activities. From 2013 till mid 2014 Mr Velge was responsible for all the business platforms. Mr. Velge obtained an Electro-Mechanical Engineering degree from the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium) and an MBA at IMD.

Other changes in the composition of the Board of Directors of Bekaert

The term of office of the Directors Lady Barbara Judge and Messrs François de Visscher, Bernard van de Walle de Ghelcke, Baudouin Velge, and Manfred Wennemer will expire at the close of the Annual General Meeting of 11 May 2016. They are not eligible for or do not seek re-election to the Board.

Upon approval of the proposed appointments by the General Meeting of Shareholders, the Board of Directors of Bekaert will as of 11 May 2016 be composed of 15 members. Their professional profiles will cover different areas of expertise, such as law, business, industrial operations, banking & investment banking, marketing & sales, HR and consultancy.

Mr. Bert De Graeve, Chairman

Mr. Matthew Taylor, CEO

Ms. Celia Frances Baxter ^{(1) (2)}

Mr. Alan Begg ⁽²⁾

Mr. Leon Bekaert

Mr. Grégory Dalle

Mr. Charles de Liedekerke

Mr. Christophe Jacobs van Merlen ⁽¹⁾

Mr. Hubert Jacobs van Merlen

Mr. Maxime Jadot

Ms. Pamela Knapp ^{(1) (2)}

Ms. Martina Merz ^{(1) (2)}

Ms. Emilie van de Walle de Ghelcke ⁽¹⁾

Mr. Henri Jean Velge ⁽¹⁾

Ms. Mei Ye ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ Upon appointment by the General Meeting of Shareholders

⁽²⁾ Independent Directors

Profile

Bekaert (www.bekaert.com) is a world market and technology leader in steel wire transformation and coating technologies. We pursue to be the preferred supplier for our steel wire products and solutions by continuously delivering superior value to our customers worldwide. Bekaert (Euronext Brussels: BEKB) is a global company with almost 30 000 employees worldwide, headquarters in Belgium and € 4.4 billion in annual revenue.