

Bremen Cotton Exchange: Continuity in the Board of Directors and Executive Committee

Bremen, 24 June 2021: In accordance with the statutes, the 147th Ordinary General Assembly of the Bremen Cotton Exchange took place on 24 June 2021. The old Executive Committee is also the new one and was re-elected in its previous formation by the Board of Directors.



Stephanie Silber



Jens D. Lukaczik

Stephanie Silber (41), Managing Director of Otto Stadlander GmbH, will remain in office as President, as will Vice Presidents **Jens D. Lukaczik** (55), Managing Partner of the service company Cargo Control Germany GmbH & Co. KG in Bremen, **Ernst Grimmelt** (54), Managing Partner of spinner and weaver Velener Textil GmbH in Velen, North Rhine-Westphalia and **Fritz A. Grobien** (63), Managing Partner of Albrecht, Müller-Pearse & Co. Trade (GmbH & Co.) KG, Bremen.



Fritz A. Grobien



Ernst Grimmelt

President Stephanie Silber said at the General Assembly: “After more than a year of the pandemic, it is clear that cotton has proven itself to be resilient. Of course, the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have not left the industry unscathed. Orders have been cancelled and companies are struggling with bankruptcy.”



But throughout the entire value chain, people have worked on solutions and demonstrated the innovative strength of the cotton industry. Demand has recovered relatively quickly. This is a good basis for the coming season, which can hopefully take place under more normal conditions. The industry is currently facing a major challenge with the logistics situation. A shortage of container availability and fully booked ship routing are delaying global supply chains worldwide.”

New Elections for the Board of Directors

New elections to the Board of Directors took place during the general assembly. Vice-President **Fritz A. Grobien**, managing partner of Albrecht, Müller-Pearse & Co. Trade (GmbH & Co.) KG, Bremen, stepped down from the board as scheduled and was re-elected to the committee. **Jean-Paul Haessig**, Asian Cotton Traders PTE Ltd, Singapore, was also reappointed to the board.

Further members of the board are **Hannes Drolle**, Getzner Textil AG, Bludenz, Austria, **Henning Hammer**, Otto Stadlander GmbH, Bremen, responsible for the Asian business in Shanghai, **Jan Kettelhack**, Hch. Kettelhack GmbH + Co. KG, Rheine, **Konrad Schröer**, Setex-Textil GmbH, Hamminkeln-Dingden, **Peter Spoerry**, Spoerry 1886 AG, Flums, also in the role of representative of the Swiss textile industry, **Roland Stelzer**, Gebr. Elmer & Zweifel GmbH & Co. KG, Bempflingen and **Axel Trede**, Cotton Service International GmbH, Bremen, **Manfred Kern** also sits on the board as an advisory member representing the Austrian Textile Industry Association.

During the General Assembly for the 148th business year, the Board of Directors and the management office reported to the members of the Bremen Cotton Exchange Association on the past business year and submitted the accounts in accordance with the statutes.

Lively Discussion on Supply Chain Law

Dr. Uwe Mazura, General Manager of the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry, gave a current assessment of the recently passed German supply chain law. This was followed by a lively discussion among the members on this topic. The guest lecture at this year's meeting was held by the Bremen Cotton Exchange's archivist, Theresa Knapstein. Under the title "Almost 150 years of the Bremen Cotton Exchange; an anecdotal look at zeitgeist and personalities from the archive" she presented a review of historical events at the association.



Stairway in the Bremen Cotton Exchange built in 1902.

A special feature of the Bremen Cotton Exchange: The members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee mainly belong to companies from different areas of the cotton supply chain such as trade, processing, and services. This gives the raw materials association access to a

comprehensive network and worldwide information resources within the global cotton sector and beyond.

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About the Bremen Cotton Exchange

The Bremen Cotton Exchange is an internationally networked industry organisation and recognised service provider. It was founded in 1872 by Bremen merchants as cotton from manufacturing countries such as America, after first being tested for its quality, was delivered to the emerging textile industry in Europe through the Bremen ports. Based on its almost 150-year history and the experience gained in dialogue with the market, the Bremen Cotton Exchange is regarded by the industry as a recognised authority and a strong partner for its neutrality and independence. Today, this not only applies to the cotton trade, spinners/weavers and service providers for the cotton industry, but also to the downstream textile and clothing industry.

The Cotton Exchange is an international arbitration body for the settlement of disputes concerning the processing of commercial contracts and quality defects. Judgments by the Cotton Exchange's Arbitration Committee are made in accordance with the 1958 New York Convention. They are internationally recognised and therefore quickly enforceable.

Within the scope of its information activities, the Bremen Cotton Exchange is available to the public, the press and specialist representatives as a contact person for all questions relating to cotton as a raw material.

The Cotton Exchange has been running the International Cotton Association Quality and Research Centre Bremen GmbH as a joint venture with the International Cotton Association Ltd. (Liverpool) since 2011. This has made it the international centre for cotton quality testing, research, training and certification. Bremen is home to an excellently equipped, state of the art laboratory.

Every two years, the cotton world gathers in Bremen: Together with its testing laboratory, the Fibre Institute Bremen (FIBRE), the Bremen Cotton Exchange hosts the International Cotton Conference, which has become the world's leading conference in the field of cotton testing. Around 600 guests from all over the world regularly travel to the Hanseatic city to attend the high-ranking sessions at the Bremen City Hall and take the opportunity to make personal business contacts.