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Jean-Paul Haessig Stays President of the Bremen Cotton Exchange

Bremen, 21 June 2024: The Board of the Bremen Cotton Exchange confirmed **Jean-Paul Haessig** as President of the association on the occasion of the General Assembly on 21 June. Haessig is a director of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Singapore-based trading company Asian Cotton Traders PTE Ltd.



Executive Committee of the Bremen Cotton Exchange: Fritz Grobien, Stephanie Silber, Jean-Paul Haessig, Jens D. Lukaczik (f.l.t.r.)

The Vice Presidents **Fritz A. Grobien**, Managing Partner of Albrecht, Müller-Pearse & Co. Trade (GmbH & Co.) KG, Bremen, **Jens D. Lukaczik**, Managing Partner of the service company Cargo Control Germany GmbH & Co. KG in Bremen and **Stephanie Silber**, Managing Director of Otto Stadlander GmbH, Bremen, will continue to serve as members of the Executive Committee.

President **Haessig** emphasizes: “I see a very challenging situation for the textile industry in Europe, but also globally. Contrary to our hopes, the global economic situation has remained tense overall and this is also having an impact on the textile industry. In addition, there are legal requirements, particularly from Brussels, which are putting a strain on supply chains. As the Bremen Cotton Exchange, we consider it as our task to ensure the greatest possible transparency for our members and also to represent the natural fibre cotton politically.”

Guest Speaker Professor Jean-François Gribomont

Jean-François Gribomont, CEO of the Belgian textile factory Utexbel NV, was invited to speak at this year's Annual General Meeting. In his role as President of the European textile association EUROCOTON, Gribomont reported on the current situation of the textile industry in Europe and the upcoming legislative projects at European level.

EUROCOTON - European Confederation of Cotton and Allied Textile Industries is the voice of the European textile industry for cotton and synthetic staple fibers, from cotton ginning to the production of yarns and fabrics from cotton and synthetic staple fibers. Due to the current relevance of the subject, a lively debate ensued among the participants, who shared their view of these developments from an entrepreneurial perspective.

Elections of the Board

The 150th Ordinary General Assembly of the Bremen Cotton Exchange in the 152nd year after the founding of the association approved the accounts, accepted the annual report of the Board of Directors for the fiscal year 2023 and unanimously granted discharge to the Board of Directors and management.



As usual, new elections to the Board also took place during the General Assembly. **Henning Hammer**, Otto Stadtländer GmbH, Bremen and **Jan Kettelhack**, Hch. Kettelhack GmbH + Co. KG, Rheine, retired from the Board as scheduled. **Jan Kettelhack** was newly elected to the Board. **Peter Spoerry**, Spoerry 1886 AG, Flums/Switzerland, resigned from the Board at his own request.

Further members of the Board are:

Hannes Drolle, Getzner Textil AG, Bludenz/Austria, **Ernst Grimmelt**, Velener Textil GmbH in Velen, North Rhine-Westphalia, **Dr Uwe Mazura**, General Manager of the Confederation of the German Textile and Fashion Industry, Berlin, **Konrad Schröer**, Setex-Textil-GmbH, Hamminkeln-Dingden, **Roland Stelzer**, Gebr. Elmer & Zweifel GmbH & Co. KG, Bempflingen, and **Axel Trede**, Cotton Service International GmbH, Bremen. Advisory members of the Board are **Manfred Kern** from the Association of the Austrian Textile, Fashion, Shoe, and Leather Industry as well as **Björn von der Crone** from Swiss textiles association Swisstextiles.

A special feature of the Bremen Cotton Exchange: The members of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee are mostly from companies from different areas of the cotton supply chain, such as trade, processing, and services. This gives the commodities association access to an extensive network and worldwide information resources within the global cotton sector and beyond in the textile industry.

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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 via Bremen ports. Based on its more than 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 does not only apply 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 Bremen 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 Bremen 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 500 guests from all over the world regularly travel to the Hanseatic city to attend the high-ranking sessions and to take the opportunity to make personal business contacts.