

Bernard Respaut appointed new Chief Executive of the European Copper Institute

Bernard Respaut succeeds John Schonenberger, who will retire at the end of 2016, after leading, for 17 years, the Brussels-based association representing the global copper industry in Europe

Brussels, October 25th, 2016: Bernard Respaut has been appointed Chief Executive of the European Copper Institute (ECI), starting January 1st, 2017. Currently Vice President M&A and Strategy Development for the Sibelco Group based in Antwerp in Belgium, Bernard Respaut succeeds John Schonenberger who retires at the end of the year.



Bernard Respaut, a Belgian national, has expertise and significant experience in strategy definition and implementation, mergers and acquisitions, recruitment, team building and corporate governance. He started his career working for McKinsey & Company before joining the food industry. He has subsequently served the glass industry for six years in charge of sales and marketing and started to work for the Sibelco Group, an industrial minerals company, in 2005, as business development director.

“I am really looking forward to contributing to the further development of the copper industry in Europe, bringing my experience, my enthusiasm and leveraging the highly professional team of ECI”, announces Bernard Respaut.

Bernard Respaut currently lives near Brussels, is married to Elena and enjoys classical music, opera, fine arts and badminton.

Bernard Respaut succeeds John Schonenberger who will retire at the end of year, after leading the organisation for the past 17 years. *“I thank John, on behalf of the Board of Directors, for the creation of an outstanding organisation of individuals, not only within the Brussels office, but across the European network of national copper centers”* says **Gonzalo Cuadra**, Managing Director of Codelco Services and Chairman of the ECI Board.



The ECI, based in Brussels since 1998 as a joint-venture between the International Copper Association - representing the majority of the world’s leading mining companies, custom smelters and semi-fabricators - and the European copper industry, has become today a well-established trade association in the Brussels arena. *“The ECI represents a sector of genuine technical, marketing and communications excellence, with its management team providing leadership throughout the global Copper Alliance”*, continues Cuadra.

About the European Copper Institute:

ECI, founded in 1996 and based in Brussels, represents the copper industry in Europe. ECI is also part of the Copper Alliance™, that brings together the global copper industry to develop and defend markets for copper, and to make a positive contribution to society’s sustainable development goals.

Read more about us on copperalliance.eu.

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