

## European Association for Coal and Lignite elects new President and Vice Presidents: Dr. Zygmunt Łukaszczyk, Chairman of the Board of Katowicki Holding Węglowy S.A. becomes President of the Association



EURACOAL President, Dr. Zygmunt Łukaszczyk (left) with EURACOAL Vice President, Mr. Vladimír Budinský (right).

**Brussels (19 January 2015)** – The European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL) today elected Dr. Zygmunt Łukaszczyk as its new President. He succeeds Mr. Paweł Smoleń who is now a partner responsible for energy and resources at Deloitte Business Consulting S.A.

Dr. Łukaszczyk, a Polish national and Chairman of the Board at Katowicki Holding Węglowy S.A. (KHW), brings his extensive experience of the coal industry and policy issues to the Association which is the “*voice of coal*” in Europe. Prof. Franz-Josef Wodopia, representing the German hard coal sector, and Mr. Nigel Yaxley, representing UK coal importers, were both re-elected as Vice Presidents and are joined by newly elected Mr. Vladimír Budinský, representing the Czech Association of Employers in Mining Industry (ZSDNP).

EURACOAL members thanked Mr. Smoleń for his leadership of the Association over two years and for his active engagement in promoting the coal industry across Europe. All agreed that his clear messages and commitment had seen EURACOAL become more confident. Dr. Łukaszczyk took the opportunity to present his views on the challenges that lie ahead. He said that as an association, EURACOAL must continue to provide decision makers with clear advice.

As EURACOAL President, Dr. Łukaszczyk promised to promote indigenous, European coal, no matter whether it was black or brown. Competition from coal imports was an important part of the equation and has ensured that consumers benefit from competitive prices. He observed that unlike wind and sun, coal would always be there, whatever the weather, and that it can be stored for use whenever needed. He saw coal as being the main fuel to ensure a secure energy sector. “It is our European wealth”, he concluded.

After their executive meeting, EURACOAL members and guests heard a presentation from IZ Klima on CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure in Germany. Chief Executive Officer of IZ Klima and former EURACOAL President, Dr. Hartmuth Zeiß, said ahead of the event that with carbon capture and storage (CSS), Germany could meet the Federal Government’s goal to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emission by 80% by 2050. The safe storage of CO<sub>2</sub> under the German North Sea could make a crucial contribution to achieving the climate targets – providing a CO<sub>2</sub> transport infrastructure is in place.

**Dr. Zygmunt ŁUKASZCZYK** was born in 1961 in Żory, near Katowice. He is Chairman of the Board of Katowicki Holding Węglowy S.A., one of Poland’s three largest coal mining companies.

He graduated in physics and studied economics prior to obtaining his doctorate in the Faculty of Mining and Geology at the Silesian University of Technology. From 2007 to 2014, he was Governor of the Silesian Voivodeship and prior to that held a Vice President position at the major Polish coking coal producer, Jastrzębska Spółka Węglowa S.A., where he was in charge of restructuring.

**Mr. Vladimír BUDINSKÝ** is Board Member responsible for strategy and communications at Severoceske doly a.s., a Czech lignite mining company. Born in 1959, he graduated from the Czech Technical University in Prague and gained his MBA at the Masaryk Institute of Advanced Studies and Sheffield Hallam University. He has held many managerial positions in industry and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the UN ECE Group of Experts for Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels. In 1995, he was appointed Transport Minister in the first Czech government.

**Prof. Dr. Franz-Josef WODOPIA** was born in 1957 in Heidelberg, Germany. A qualified economist, he first held various posts in the fields of energy and science and then became Professor at the University of Applied Sciences Georg Agricola in Bochum, Germany. At the Mining, Chemical and Energy Industrial Union (IG BCE), Prof. Wodopia headed the Mining and Energy Industries Department. In mid-2005, he became Managing Director of Gesamtverband Steinkohle (German Hard Coal Association) where he is a Member of the Board.

**Mr. Nigel YAXLEY** is Managing Director at CoalImp, the Association of UK Coal Importers. He joined the then nationalised UK coal industry in 1977 after graduating in physics from Cambridge University. On the industry's privatisation in 1995, Mr. Yaxley joined UK Coal plc where he became Marketing Director. From 2005 to 2007, he was President of EURACOAL and has chaired the Association's Market Committee.

ends



President  
Mr. Zygmunt Łukaszczyk



Vice President  
Mr. Vladimír Budinský



Vice President  
Prof. Franz-Josef Wodopia



Vice President  
Mr. Nigel Yaxley

#### Note for editors:

- The European Association for Coal and Lignite (EURACOAL) represents the interests of coal producers, coal importers and coal users in Brussels. The Association has 34 members from 20 countries. As well as the recently launched *Coal: fuel for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, the Association also publishes *Coal industry across Europe*, a detailed review of the European coal industry with sections on the world coal market and climate policy ([www.euracoal.org](http://www.euracoal.org)).

#### Contact:

Brian Ricketts, Secretary-General, EURACOAL, mobile +44 7804 646620, [ricketts@euracoal.org](mailto:ricketts@euracoal.org)