

## EURACOAL appoints Tomasz Rogala from Europe's largest coal producer to lead the association

**Brussels (16 March 2018)** – EURACOAL members have unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Tomasz Rogala as the association's new President. He will be supported by a strong team of Vice Presidents, including the past President, Dr. Wolfgang Cieslik, who will stay on as the Senior Vice President.

Dr. Cieslik welcomed the appointment of Mr. Rogala and agreed with him that coal has to be promoted as a safe, environmentally friendly and economically available fuel. "Without the buffer of conventional thermal power generation, it is not possible to guarantee security of supply for decades", he said. "A successful *energy transition* has to navigate a complex set of drivers, without ignoring their impacts or their costs – there was no room for ideologies", he concluded, before commending EURACOAL's new strategy paper to the incoming President.

Mr. Rogala is Chairman of the Board at Polska Grupa Górnicza (PGG) or the Polish Mining Group which, with annual coal production of around 30 million tonnes, is the largest hard coal producer in Europe. A lawyer by training, he has been responsible for restructuring companies, most recently those in the Polish hard coal sector.

Mr. Vladimír Budinský, representing Zaměstnavatelský svaz důlního a naftového průmyslu (ZSDNP – the Czech Employers' Association for the Mining and Oil Industries), becomes the First Vice President of EURACOAL and therefore President-designate. Dr.-Ing. Lars Kulik continues his Vice Presidency representing Deutscher Braunkohlen-Industrie-Verein (DEBRIV – the German Brown Coal Association) while the newly appointed Vice President, Mr. Radosław Rasoła, brings his experience of the Polish lignite sector, representing Porozumienie Producentów Węgla Brunatnego (PPWB – the Confederation of Polish Lignite Producers).

Mr. Janusz Olszowski of the Polish Mining Chamber of Industry and Commerce (GIPH) steps down after serving two years as a Vice President. He will continue to play an active role as EURACOAL prepares for the UN COP24 climate conference in Katowice.

Commenting on these appointments, the Secretary General, Brian Ricketts, said that EURACOAL had taken the time to establish a strong leadership team and he looked forward to working under its direction. Mr. Budinský expressed his gratitude for the work of President Cieslik over two years during which, "he turned a rather negative situation into a positive one, with a new strategy, a new Coal Regions in Transition Platform and new offices".

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**Biographical notes:**

**Mr. Tomasz ROGALA** is Chairman of the Board at Polska Grupa Górnicza SA (PGG – Polish Mining Group), the largest hard coal producer in Europe, with an annual output of around 30 million tonnes from nine mines. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Silesia where he specialised in financial law. He also completed postgraduate studies in EU law at the Faculty of Law of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and in business management at the University of Economics in Katowice as part of the Harzburg Kolleg programme. Mr. Rogala is a state-licensed insolvency practitioner and expert on corporate valuations. Previously, he was the President of the Management Board of Kompania Węglowa SA, prior to its restructuring. He was appointed EURACOAL President in March 2018.

**Dr. Wolfgang CIESLIK**, born in 1952 in Bornheim, studied fuel engineering at RWTH (Rheinish-Westphalian University of Technology) in Aachen. After his doctorate, he began his professional career at Ruhrkohle AG, taking many positions there and rising to chairman of the management board in charge of distribution and marketing of all coal production. Currently, Dr. Cieslik is a board member at the German utility company STEAG GmbH and the current Chairman of the Coal Importers' Association (VDKi) – a EURACOAL member. STEAG is an international company operating eight coal-fired power plants in Germany and further ones in Turkey, Colombia and the Philippines. Dr. Cieslik is responsible for all the company's generation assets and commodity trading. He served as EURACOAL President from January 2016 to March 2018.

**Mr. Vladimír BUDINSKÝ** is responsible for foreign affairs at Severoceske doly a.s., a Czech lignite mining company and part of the ČEZ Group. He was previously Vice Chairman of the Board at ČEZ Distribuce. Born in 1959, he graduated from CVUT, the Czech Technical University in Prague, and gained his MBA at the Masaryk Institute of Advanced Studies and Sheffield Hallam University. He has held various managerial positions in the energy and transport industries. Since 2014, Mr. Budinský has served as Vice Chairman of the UNECE Group of Experts for Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels. In 1995, he was appointed Transport Minister in the first Czech government.

**Dr.-Ing. Lars KULIK** has been a Member of the Executive Board of RWE Power AG since August 2016, serving as Chief Technical Officer for lignite mining, refining and power generation. He graduated as a mining engineer from RWTH Aachen and was awarded a doctorate in engineering from the same university in 1992. He then joined Rheinbraun AG (now RWE Power), beginning at the Hambach opencast lignite mine. After a number of promotions, he was appointed Head of the Lignite Planning in 2004, and then in 2010 took over responsibility for Lignite Development as well. In January 2017, he was unanimously elected as a Vice President of EURACOAL.

**Mr. Radosław RASAŁA** is Vice-President of the Management Board for Finance at PGE Górnictwo i Energetyka Konwencjonalna SA (PGE GiEK SA) which, as part of Poland's largest utility company, owns and operates lignite mines and power plants that supply 38% of the country's electricity, as well as heat. He is a member of the Supervisory Committee of the Polish Mining Group (PGG), the largest hard coal producer in Europe. A postgraduate of the Warsaw School of Economics, Mr. Rasała holds an MBA from the University of London / Imperial College as well as a professional accounting qualification. During his career, he has worked for the predecessor of PGE GiEK SA, namely for BOT Górnictwo i Energetyka SA, as well as for the international power industry companies Eastern Power and Energy Trading (UK) Ltd. and Entergy Corp. of the USA.

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President  
Mr. Tomasz Rogala



First Vice President  
Mr. Vladimír Budinský



Senior Vice President  
Dr. Wolfgang Cieslik



Vice President  
Dr.-Ing. Lars Kulik



Vice President  
Mr. Radosław Rasoła

## 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 26 members from 15 countries. The Association publishes regular market reports and *Coal industry across Europe*, a detailed review of the European coal industry with sections on the world coal market and climate policy ([www.euracoal.eu](http://www.euracoal.eu)).

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