

Press Release

**European Association for Coal and Lignite elects new President and Vice President:
Prof. Alicja Krzemień of the Central Mining Institute (GIG-PIB)
becomes President of the Association**

Brussels (17 June 2024) – Today, EURACOAL elected Prof. Alicja Krzemień of the Central Mining Institute (GIG-PIB), a National Research Institute in Poland, to be its next President. She brings to the association her great knowledge and experience of underground coal mining, land restoration and transition in the coal regions. Prof. Krzemień is a member of the mining committee at the Polish Academy of Sciences and serves on advisory groups to the European Commission and the UNECE. Based in Katowice, she comes from the heart of the Polish hard coal industry and has worked with all the major coal companies, including the coking coal producer Jastrzębska Spółka Węglowa S.A. and Polska Grupa Górnicza S.A. which is Europe's largest hard coal producer. During her presidency, she will promote the interests of the European coal and lignite industry at the EU level and aims to push for a clean and just transition in the coal regions.

EURACOAL members also elected Mr. Jacek Kaczorowski as a Vice President of EURACOAL. He is President of the Management Board at PGE Górnictwo i Energetyka Konwencjonalna S.A. (PGE GiEK), a subsidiary of Poland's largest utility company, PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna. During his long career in lignite mining and power generation, Mr. Kaczorowski has overseen the development of mines and several power plants, including the 858 MW unit 14 at Bełchatów power plant. Alongside Senior Vice President, Ing. Vladimír Budinský from the Czech Republic and Dr. Lars Kulik from Germany, he will help ensure that EURACOAL remains focussed on the topics of importance to members.



Prof. Alicja Krzemień was elected by EURACOAL members in June 2024 to be the association's President. She is a mining engineer and Associate Professor of environmental engineering, mining, and energy at the Central Mining Institute – National Research Institute (GIG-PIB) in Katowice, Poland. A member of the Polish Academy of Sciences Mining Committee, she also serves on the European Commission's Coal Advisory Group, the Scientific Council of the Strata Mechanics Research Institute in Kraków, and the International Organising Committee of the World Mining Congress. At EURACOAL, Prof. Krzemień chairs the Technical Research Committee and, within the UN system, she sits on the taskforce on safe operations and closure of coal mines at the United

Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva. For the last ten years, she has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Oviedo in Spain where she has not only shared her knowledge but also applied it in practice by leading a €19 million demonstration project on the repurposing of a former coal mine with a green hydrogen plant financed by the EU Research Fund for Coal and Steel.



Mr. Jacek Kaczorowski was elected a Vice President of EURACOAL in June 2024. He is President of the Management Board at PGE Górnictwo i Energetyka Konwencjonalna S.A. (PGE GiEK), a subsidiary of Poland’s largest utility company, PGE Polska Grupa Energetyczna. Mr. Kaczorowski graduated from the AGH University of Kraków with degrees in Mining and in Management & Marketing. Since the beginning of his professional career, he has been associated with the Bełchatów lignite mine – one of the largest in Europe. While a member of the management board of KWB Bełchatów S.A. (Bełchatów lignite mine), he was Chief Investment Officer from 1999 to 2003, and President of the Management Board and CEO from 2006 to 2010. From July 2009, he simultaneously managed PGE Elektrownia Bełchatów S.A. (Bełchatów power plant) and led its consolidation with thirteen other power and mining companies across Poland. Until the end of 2015, he was President of PGE GiEK where he implemented the corporate-wide Efficiency Improvement Programme among other initiatives such as the modernisation of units 5 to 12 at the Bełchatów power plant. He has overseen some of the largest investment projects of the Polish power industry, namely the construction of the 858 MW Bełchatów unit 14 in 2011, as well as Opole units 5 and 6 with a total capacity of 1 800 MW, the 496 MW Turów unit 7, and CHP plants at Gorzów and Rzeszów. From 2018 to 2022, Mr. Kaczorowski was President of the Management Board at the Łódź water and sewage plant and subsequently, until 2024, President of the Management Board at Gazstal – a company supplying pipes and structural steel to the drilling industry and others. At the Polish Academy of Sciences, he sits on the mining committee where his knowledge of opencast mining and mining economics is highly valued.

Note for editors:

The European Association for Coal and Lignite aisbl (EURACOAL) represents the interests of coal producers, coal importers and coal users in Brussels. The Association has 20 members from 12 countries. As well as the recently launched 8th edition of *Coal industry across Europe*, a detailed review of the European coal industry with sections on the world coal market and energy transition, the association also publishes a biannual European coal market report (www.euracoal.eu).

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