



25 March 2009

### **JÜRGEN R. THUMANN TO SUCCEED ERNEST-ANTOINE SEILLIÈRE AS PRESIDENT OF BUSINESSEUROPE**

Taking effect on 1 July 2009, Jürgen R. Thumann, former President of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) will succeed Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of BUSINESSEUROPE since 2005. Mr Thumann was chosen unanimously by the Council of Presidents.

According to BUSINESSEUROPE's statutes, the President is elected for a period of two years, renewable once. Ernest-Antoine Seillière will end his second two-year term as President of BUSINESSEUROPE on 30 June 2009.

From 2005 to 2008 Jürgen R. Thumann was President of the Federation of German Industries (BDI). He was Vice President of BUSINESSEUROPE from 2005-2008. He is the European Co-Chairman of the Transatlantic Business Dialogue. He also chairs or is a member of a number of company boards.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of BUSINESSEUROPE said: *"I am so pleased that Jürgen Thumann has been elected to take the helm at BUSINESSEUROPE. He is a successful entrepreneur with broad German, European and international experience. This is the profile BUSINESSEUROPE needs."*

Jürgen R. Thumann said: *"In almost three months I will succeed Ernest-Antoine Seillière who has transformed the organisation in a very effective and dynamic way. I am well aware that present times are difficult. It is in times like these that BUSINESSEUROPE representing European companies will have an essential role to play!"*

The full CV of Jürgen R. Thumann is attached.

#### NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE – the Confederation of European Business represents more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 40 central industrial and employers' federations from 34 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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## Jürgen R. Thumann

succeeding Ernest-Antoine Seillière

as BUSINESSEUROPE President

from 1 July 2009

Jürgen R. Thumann is a born entrepreneur.

At the age of 19, after completing his apprenticeship in the wholesale and foreign trade business, Thumann took over the management of *Thumann Stahl-Service Center* as a partner and expanded the family business.

Later he founded *Heitkamp & Thumann KG* in Düsseldorf. Today this business is a group comprising small and medium-sized enterprises in the steel, metal and plastics manufacturing industry, presently employing approximately 2,300 employees in 18 locations in Europe, Asia, North America and Middle East.

In addition he is the majority owner of *Heitkamp Group* in Herne, a construction company with 1,100 employees mostly operating in Europe.

He has gathered extensive international experience. Already in 1975, he became one of the partners and chief executive officer of *Hille & Müller*, a cold rolling mill with coating treatment, which, by that time, had become an internationally operating company.

In addition to his entrepreneurial activities, Jürgen R. Thumann has always been involved in larger business issues. From 2005 to 2008 he was President of the Federation of German Industries (BDI) and has held the office of Vice President since January 2009. He also chairs or is a member of a number of company boards.

Before taking up the presidency of BDI, Thumann was President of the steel and metal-working industry association (WSM), a BDI member organisation.

Jürgen R. Thumann was born in Schwelm (Westphalia) Germany, on 17 August 1941. He is married and has two daughters.