

## **EURACOAL – Press Release**

### **European Association for Coal and Lignite elects new President**

### **Petr Pudil President of the Association/number of Vice Presidents rises to three**

**Brussels (26.01.2009)** – EURACOAL, the European Association for Coal and Lignite, elected Petr Pudil as its new President, succeeding Dr. Maksymilian Klank from Poland, in office since the beginning of 2007. Pudil, a representative of the Czech coal industry, is now President of the Association which represents the European coal and lignite industry.

EURACOAL Members from a total of 18 European countries decided at today's General Assembly in Brussels to increase the number of Vice-Presidents. In future, EURACOAL, together with a President, will have three Vice Presidents. „By this means we want to increase the visibility and effectiveness of our contribution to the energy and environment policy debate over the next two years“ explained EURACOAL's new President Pudil after his election.

Outgoing President Maksymilian Klank becomes a Vice-President together with Professor Franz-Josef Wodopia, representing German hard coal mining and Dr. Wolfgang Ritschel, representing coal importers.

**Mr. Petr Pudil** graduated in engineering and started his career in the coal industry in 1998 when he became Director of Strategy at the Most Coal Company. He is one of the owners of the Czech Coal Group that includes Czech Coal a.s., trading in energy commodities, mainly brown coal, Litvínovská uhelná and Vršanská uhelná, coal mining companies, and a number of service companies. Mr. Pudil is CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Czech Coal a. s. He is also on the Board of the Czech Confederation of Industries.

**Dr. Maksymilian Klank** has worked for the Polish coal industry for 30 years. After reading economics in Katowice and graduating from the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy, Klank began his career as Head of Finance of a Polish hard coal enterprise. In 1993 he was then in charge of the Finance Department of the Katowice Coal Holding Company. In 2001, he was promoted Chairman of the Board. From 2003 to 2006, he was Chairman of the Board of Kompania Weglowa. Klank is also Chairman of the Polish Hard Coal Federation and a Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

**Professor Dr. Franz-Josef Wodopia** was born in 1957 in Heidelberg, Germany. The qualified economist first held different posts in the fields of energy and science and then became Professor at the University in Bochum/Germany. With the German Trade Union for Mining Industry, Chemistry and Energy (IG BCE), Wodopia headed the Mining and Energy Industries Department. In mid 2005, Wodopia became Managing Director of Gesamtverband Steinkohle (the German Hard Coal Association), one year later becoming a Member of the Board.

**Dr. Wolfgang Ritschel** began his career in 1970 at the AG Niederrhein mine after studying and graduating at the University of Clausthal Zellerfeld. In 1974, Ritschel was appointed Deputy Director Business Planning within the then Ruhrkohle AG. From 1977 to 1978 he managed underground mining for several mines in the Ruhr district. From 1979 to 1996 Ritschel was President of the management of Raab Karcher Coal Trade GmbH. In 1996 he joined the management of RAG Trading. In 2001, Ritschel was appointed Manager of the Verein der deutschen Kohlenimporteure e.V. (Association of German Hard Coal Importers) in Hamburg.