CIRFS
EUROPEAN MAN-MADE
FIBRES ASSOCIATION

40, rue Belliard, B – 1040 Brussels
Tel.: +32 2 436 96 35 | Fax: +32 2 436 96 38
Email: secretariat@cirfs.org | www.cirfs.org

Brussels, May 27, 2020

PRESS RELEASE

ROBERT VAN DE KERKHOF SUCCEEDS NECAT ALTIN AS CIRFS PRESIDENT

Robert van de KERKHOF has been elected by the CIRFS members to take on the role of President at today's AGM.

He succeeds **Necat ALTIN**, General Manager of **Korteks** and Head of **Zorlu** Holding Textiles Group, whose mandate has expired but who will remain a member of the Board as past-President.

Necat ALTIN comments:

*"I am very pleased that **Robert van de KERKHOF** has been unanimously elected to follow me as CIRFS President.*

*He has been actively involved in CIRFS work for many years, amongst others in the Board, more recently as its Vice-President. **Robert van de KERKHOF** has a long experience and a very successful record in the man-made fibres industry, and is currently heading the performance of Marketing and Sales, Corporate Sustainability and Supply Chain as the Chief Commercial Officer of the **Lenzing** Group, an innovative and world-leading Austrian company. He has on many occasions highlighted the indispensable contribution of CIRFS to the man-made fibres industry's development in Europe and how CIRFS can support the industry in meeting its current and future challenges in a global world.*

Robert van de KERKHOF adds:

*"**Necat ALTIN** has strongly supported the association in his period as President, showing how CIRFS can play a key role for the industry by adapting to a constantly changing and very competitive environment. I look forward to continuing this mission over the next three years.*

"The man-made fibres industry, in Europe and also globally, is faced with many challenges such as international trade tensions and now the Covid-19 crisis. Our European industry through has numerous strengths. Not only is it the most innovative and the most sustainable worldwide, but it also manufactures highly specialized, quality and green products, which provide the base for a bright sustainable future. CIRFS will continue to actively work to help the industry build on these strengths."

CIRFS
EUROPEAN MAN-MADE
FIBRES ASSOCIATION

40, rue Belliard, B – 1040 Brussels
Tel.: +32 2 436 96 35 | Fax: +32 2 436 96 38
Email: secretariat@cirfs.org | www.cirfs.org

Notes to Editors

1. **CIRFS** is the association for Europe's € 10.5 billion man-made fibres industry, representing the industry to the European authorities and providing the industry with a wide range of services. Its members cover more than 70% of European man-made fibres output.

2. **The Lenzing Group** is a global leader in innovative wood-based cellulosic fibres headquarted in Austria and stands for the ecologically responsible production of specialty fibres made from the renewable raw material wood. As an innovation leader, Lenzing is a partner of global textile and nonwoven manufacturers and drives many new technological developments.

   The Lenzing Group's high-quality fibres form the basis for a variety of textile applications ranging from elegant ladies clothing to versatile denims and high-performance sports clothing. Due to their consistent high quality, their biodegradability and compostability Lenzing fibres are also highly suitable for hygiene products and agricultural applications.

   The business model of the Lenzing Group goes far beyond that of a traditional fibre producer. Together with its customers and partners, Lenzing develops innovative products along the value chain, creating added value for consumers. The Lenzing Group strives for the efficient utilization and processing of all raw materials and offers solutions to help redirect the textile sector towards a closed-loop economy.

   A biography and photograph of **Robert van de KERKHOF** are attached.

3. For further information, please contact the CIRFS Director General, Frédéric VAN HOUTE: fvh@cirfs.org or +32 2 436 96 30.

CIRFS
EUROPEAN MAN-MADE
FIBRES ASSOCIATION

40, rue Belliard, B – 1040 Brussels
Tel.: +32 2 436 96 35 | Fax: +32 2 436 96 38
Email: secretariat@cirfs.org | www.cirfs.org

Lenzing
Innovative by nature

Executive Biography

Robert van de Kerkhof, MBA

Chief Commercial Officer, Lenzing AG



Robert van de Kerkhof is Chief Commercial Officer of Lenzing AG. In his role, Van de Kerkhof is heading the performance of Marketing and Sales, Corporate Sustainability and Supply Chain. A veteran in the fiber industry with over 25 years of experience, he is also the President of the Austrian Fiber Institute and Vice-President of CIRFS, the European Man-made Fibres Association.

Van de Kerkhof's comprehensive expertise in the international textile industry came from his many years of experience at various international companies and business functions. Van de Kerkhof began his career as an Aeronautical Engineer at Fokker Aircraft, and since then, he has taken up roles in Ten Cate, DuPont de Nemours and INVISTA. In addition to building expertise in various manufacturing components, fibers and raw materials, over the years, Van de Kerkhof also held multiple leadership roles across different business functions. He has successfully led the growth of various business units, including marketing and sales, manufacturing, financial controlling, product development and strategic business development. He also has extensive experience in transforming organizations through technology innovation and value chain optimization.

Van de Kerkhof is married with three children. He holds a B.Sc. in Aeronautical Engineering from Inholland Hogeschool Netherlands and an MBA in International Management.