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## PRESS RELEASE

### BRIAN PETTER HAS JOINED CIRFS TO HEAD ITS ECONOMICS & TRADE DEPARTMENT

April 4, 2022, Brussels

CIRFS, the European Man-made Fibres Association, has pleasure in announcing that Mr **Brian PETTER** joined CIRFS on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to head its economics and trade department. He takes over from Paul Fournier, who left CIRFS in mid-January after heading the CIRFS economic, industrial and trade policy activities for ten years.

**Brian PETTER** is of German/Colombian nationality. Aged 32, he has several years of experience in trade policy and policy analysis.

Over the last seven years he has been working with the German Chemical Industry Association (VCI) in Frankfurt, recently as a Policy Advisor. He is familiar with foreign trade, customs and tax issues, FTAs, origin issues, energy and many more.

He holds a Master's degree in International Relations from the Catholic University of Eichstätt/Ingolstadt, Germany and a Bachelor's degree in Political Sciences/Psychology from the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena, Germany and is fluent in English, German and Spanish.


CIRFS Director General **Frédéric VAN HOUTE** comments:

*"I am delighted to welcome Brian PETTER to the CIRFS team."*

*"Brian has been a Policy Advisor with the German Chemical Industry Association in the area of trade policy. He has experience in European trade policy and a good knowledge of tariff/non-tariff matters, rules of origin, customs issues, market access and trade defence instruments."*

*"The man-made fibres industry is a modern, dynamic and very competitive sector of the European economy, exposed to intense worldwide competition. Ensuring fair trade within the EU and with third countries is of the utmost importance for our industry. Anticipating and influencing legislative change relating to trade, advising member companies on relevant industrial and economic policy matters, and analysing market developments are therefore crucial."*

*"I am convinced that Brian will ensure the high reputation of CIRFS in the trade area and its service to member companies."*



## SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF MR BRAIN PETTER

### HEAD OF ECONOMICS & TRADE DEPARTMENT, CIRFS

- Brian Petter was born in Bogotá (Colombia) on February 5th, 1990. He finished high school in Heidelberg (Germany) and studied Political Sciences and Psychology from 2009 to 2013 in Jena (Germany), obtained his master's degree in international relations at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany) in 2016 and took part in an exchange program at the Department for Global Political Studies of the Faculty of Culture and Society at Malmö University (Sweden).
- Brian has published several articles in the journal "Chemiereport" of the German Chemical Industry Association as well as in the European Yearbook of Economic Law (Special Edition 2018). He is also a member of the Board of Editors of the Journal "Außenwirtschaftliche Praxis (AW-Prax)" since 2019.
- Brian Petter is married and fluent in Spanish, German and English.



### WORK EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- German Chemical Industry Association (VCI): April 2016 – March 2022  
Policy Advisor for Foreign Trade and Customs Law, Excise Duties. Department of Financial and Economic Affairs, IT – Section Foreign Trade and Investment (Frankfurt am Main, Germany)
- Quadriga University Berlin: March 2018 – October 2018  
Professional Training Program on Policy Management and Public Affairs (Berlin, Germany)
- World Trade Institute (WTI): July 2017  
Summer Academy on Trade, Competition and Public Procurement (Bern, Switzerland)
- German Chemical Industry Association (VCI): February 2015 – March 2016  
Junior Trade Advisor. EU Liaison Office (Brussels, Belgium)



**Notes to Editors:**

1. **CIRFS** is the association for Europe's € 11.2 billion man - made fibres industry (2021), 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. The European man-made fibres industry, with production in 2020 of 3.5 million tonnes, is one of the world's largest in terms of output and one of the global leaders in terms of innovation and quality.

2. For further information, please contact the CIRFS Director General, Frédéric Van Houte:

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