

ECCK Newsletter



February 26, 2015, No 18

ECCK Annual General Meeting

The ECCK Annual General Meeting (AGM) was convened on Monday, February 23, 2015, at Conrad Seoul. At this year's AGM, members elected a new Board of Directors to oversee the ECCK's operations in the next two years.



Jean-Christophe Darbes, a French citizen and the President & CEO of BNP Paribas Cardif Life Insurance in Seoul, was elected to represent the ECCK as President of the Board effective immediately.

Along with Mr Darbes, the ECCK elected four other Board Members:

Vice-Presidents

- Jan Benggaard (Denmark), Managing Director & CEO of L-3 Marine Systems
- Toni Schreibweiss (Germany), CEO & President of Evonik Korea

Treasurer

- Torben Karasek (Germany), CFO of BMW Group Korea

Trustee

- Michael Reed (United Kingdom), Country Head of Fidelity Worldwide Investment



In his acceptance speech, Mr Darbes introduced the direction the ECCK would move toward under his leadership. First and foremost, he emphasized cooperation with national chambers, embassies, and European corporations to increase the "footprint" of the European industries in Korea. The new president expressed his vision of raising the presence and voice of Europe by growing together.

Mr Darbes also stated that the ECCK should focus more on assisting companies looking for investment in the Korean market. The Korean market is of growing importance for European businesses, thus these incoming businesses need to be supported by an established organization.

Finally, the new president underscored the importance of consolidating data and information to support individual European companies and institutions. He believed this function would be better suited for a general European organization such as the ECCK rather than national entities. Once again, he stressed cooperation with embassies and national chambers for this ambition.



In addition to the Board of Directors election, the ECCK debriefed on the Chamber's activities and financial status of 2014 and approved an official auditor for the year of 2015. Samil PwC was authorized to continue to be the ECCK's auditor.

As for the financial status, the ECCK had substantially stabilized and grown over the last fiscal year. Christoph Heider, the Secretary-General of the ECCK, went over the Chamber's activities and plans for 2015 in detail.

At the end of the AGM, Thilo Halter, the president of the Board for the past two years, was invited on stage and awarded the first honorary membership of the ECCK as a token of appreciation for his service.



Farewell Message from Thilo Halter

Dear valued Members and Friends:

As the first ECCK president, I write this to you for the last time to bid farewell and congratulate the new Board Members.

Time flies, indeed. It has been more than two years since the European Chamber was established as a new and ambitious organization. Having seen everything through, I feel overwhelmed by the Chamber's immense growth into what it is today.

I would like to take this opportunity to express special appreciation toward my fellow Board Members, Embassies, Members of the Advisory Board, and the ECCK staff for all the dedication, commitment, and hard work in the past two years.

Most importantly, it is our members' attention and support that have made everything possible. We all remember that once, the newly-born Chamber faced an uncertain future. But thanks to everyone's cooperation, we are seeing a bigger and stronger European organization taking root in the dynamic Korean market. Although we had to overcome many challenges in the beginning, I am a happy man to have had such enormous support from all our members.

Furthermore, I am glad to know that my responsibilities are left in good hands. The ECCK has much in store for the year 2015. While I may no longer be here, my support for the ECCK will not change. I am also certain that your support will remain unchanged for the years to come.

Again, I heartily congratulate the new Board Members, who will open up another bright chapter for the ECCK. And with many pleasant memories, I would like to say my final good bye to everyone.

Thank you very much.

Best regards,

Thilo Halter

ECCK General Events

ECCK Tax Forum

The ECCK held a Tax Forum regarding the Korean personal income tax system on February 12 at Lotte Hotel Seoul. Experts from Samil PwC delivered a presentation and led the following Q&A session. The ECCK provides the Tax Forum on a quarterly basis to keep interested members up-to-date on tax law changes.



MoU with Dong-A University

On February 26, the ECCK and Dong-A University in Busan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), defining collaboration between the two organizations. Dong-A University was established in 1946 and currently has more than 20,000 undergraduate students. The university is recognized by the Ministry of Education as one of the leaders in industry-university cooperation. With the MoU, the ECCK and Dong-A University will cooperate in conferences, seminars, as well as exchange activities such as special lectures and internship opportunities.



Upcoming Events

ECCK Busan Leadership Training

- Topic: "Global Leadership: Motivating the Workforce during Slow Business Growth"
- Date: Thursday, March 12
- Time: 17:00-18:00
- Venue: BEXCO Exhibition Center II (3F)
- Admission fee: Free of Charge

EU Research & Innovation Day

The EU Delegation to Korea and the ECCK are co-organizing the first EU Research and Innovation Day at the Conrad Hotel in Seoul, Korea on March 25, 2015. At this event, all EU Member States and their major research and innovation organizations will participate and share information with the Korean counterparts about their policies, programs and success stories. There will be ample opportunities for networking with present and future partners. Please join our event and experience the excellence of European research and innovation!

- Date: Wednesday, March 25
- Time: 08:00-18:00
- Venue: Grand Ballroom, Conrad Seoul Hotel

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For more information, please contact Tomasz Wierzbowski, Head of Innovation & Future Technologies, at Tomasz.wierzbowski@ecck.eu



ECCK Busan Information Session

- Topic: *"English Contract: Term & Condition"*
- Date: Thursday, March 26
- Time: 08:30-10:00
- Venue: Haeundae Grand Hotel (22F)
- Speaker: Kevin Kim (Jin & Kim Law firm)
- Admission fee: KRW 40,000 (VAT included)
- RSVP required by March 13 via E-mail busan@ecck.eu or Fax +82 51-959-9697

ECCK Network Night

- Date: Thursday, March 26
- Time: 18:30-21:00
- Venue: TBD

External Event Notice

Seoul Town Hall Meeting with European Residents

The Mayor of Seoul will preside over the meeting where participants can ask questions and raise issues to improve the city's friendliness toward European residents. The ECCK is supporting the event through active promotion.

- Date: Friday, March 6
- Time: 16:00-17:30
- Venue: Seoul Global Center (9F)
- To register online, [click here](#)

Cross Cultural Training Seminar

- Topic: *"Lost in Translation: Cultural Differences in Linguistic Aspect"*
- Date: Tuesday, March 17
- Time: 12:00
- Venue: Lotte Hotel Seoul, Garnet Suite (37F)
- Speakers:
Christoph Heider, Secretary-General, ECCK
Mark Tetto, CSO, Vingle
Seo-young Chae, Professor, Sogang University

Retail Congress Asia Pacific 2015

- Date: Tuesday-Wednesday, March 17-18
- Venue: Marina Bay Sands, Singapore
- For more information:
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