

## Press Release

### Winners of the first ECCK Sustainability Awards Announced at the ECCK's 10 Year Anniversary Gala

21 November 2022, Seoul - The ECCK announced the winners of the first ECCK Sustainability Awards on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November during the ECCK's 10th Year Anniversary Gala attended by distinguished guests and member companies.

This award ceremony was held to acknowledge efforts made by European and Korean companies to create a better, more sustainable future, and to encourage and motivate other companies to do the same.

During the ceremony, H.E. **Ban Ki-moon**, Chair of Green Growth Institute and former Secretary General of the United Nations delivered a congratulatory speech and presented the ECCK's first Sustainability Awards to winning companies from three distinct categories:

- Green Steps – Awarded to the SME/Start-up with the best sustainability initiatives.
- Blue Horizons – Awarded to the company demonstrating the best Co2 Reduction, Clear Air, and/or Clean Energy initiatives.
- Golden Stars – Awarded to the company with the best ESG/multifaceted sustainability initiatives.

ECCK Chairperson, **Dirk Lukat** mentioned, "The European Union launched its Green Deal in 2019, and Korea in 2020. The importance of fighting climate change has increased in recent years and nowadays it is a must for companies and corporations to contribute fully hearted to a better and greener future. It is without a doubt that realization of related policy initiatives is only possible through a strong collaboration with and contribution by the private sector.," he continued, "It is our privilege to award these three European and Korean companies for its exemplary actions toward the sustainability."

### Winners of 2022 ECCK Sustainability Awards

#### **Green Steps: BriteBelly**

Founded in 2021 as a spin off from parent company Organica, BriteBelly (CEO- YoungRan Yang, HyunJae Lee) has committed itself to the development, production, and sale of an impressively wide variety of plant-based food products. In line with the growing trend of eating carbon neutral friendly food, we aim to provide delicious plant-based HMR & Sauce to general consumer not only "Flexitarian." Moreover, within one year of its launch, Britebelly has achieved successful business growth in the Korean "Green Living" industry.

#### **Blue Horizons: BNCT**

BNCT (CEO: Deuk Seon Chris Choi) based in Busan new port, has continued to push to become more sustainable since 2012 operating its 3<sup>rd</sup> largest container terminal in Korea. Over the years it has upgraded its entire operation through replacing LED lights for lighting towers and ship-to-shore crane, making improvements to its fully automated terminal operation system, and purchasing eco-friendly equipment. Through balancing sustainability success and operational efficiency, BNCT has made significant efforts to reduce the large quantities of greenhouse gas emission and energy consumption in the maritime sector. Moreover, to realize 2040 zero carbon goals, the company has set 2030 intermediate goals and it has demonstrated a clear forecast including saving goals for diesel, emissions and electricity, and an eagerness to continue to explore more investments and activities in the future.

### **Golden Stars: IKEA Korea**

IKEA has brought meaningful changes to society with its People and Planet Positive Strategy launched in 2012. IKEA Korea (CEO and Chief Sustainability Officer: Fredrik Johansson) has accelerated steps towards a more sustainable future by taking actions, including reducing energy and waste in its operations, expanding the fleet of electric vehicles for furniture delivery, launching Buy Back service, providing healthy and sustainable food, and collaborating with NGOs to become a good neighbour for the local community. IKEA Korea has a clear vision for a better future and continues to innovate and invest in sustainability while working with partners to make a positive impact on the planet.

### **About the ECCK Sustainability Awards 2022**

Both in Europe (2019) and Korea (2020) the Green Deal policy became an important commitment. The success of sustainability policy depends on a strong collaboration with and contribution by private enterprises. The ECCK representing almost 400 companies also has set Sustainability as a key focus area since 2021.

In 2022, the ECCK launched its Sustainability Awards open for European and Korean companies to apply for and therefore acknowledging their considerable efforts Sustainability. This year, the application was open from July to mid October 2022 and total 36 companies participated in this awards. There are three categories as below.

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### **About the ECCK**

Established in 2012, The European Chamber of Commerce in Korea (ECCK) is a business association of European companies in Korea, representing the common voice of the European business community, the ECCK provides its members with information, communication, and access pertaining to the business and regulatory environment of Korea. Currently, the Chamber consists of 390 member companies and approximately 50,000 employees in Korea.