

## **AECM announces 2015's Board of Directors and newly elected President**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Berlin, 18 June 2015** – AECM, the leading European association of guarantee institutions has announced during the course of its annual event in Berlin the new board of directors and President. The board includes 9 incumbents and 3 newly ratified members from 12 different European countries: Bernhard Sagmeister (aws / Austria), Bernard Jehin (SOWALFIN / Belgium), Guy Selbherr (VDB / Germany), Éva Búza (Garantiqa Credit Guarantee Fund / Hungary), Audrius Zobotka (INVEGA / Lithuania), Halina Wiśniewska (Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego BGK / Poland), Silvia Ciornei (FNGCIMM / Romania), Pedro Pisonero Pérez (CESGAR / Spain) and A. Kadir Akgül (TESKOMB / Turkey) were reelected by the General Assembly, whereas Samuil Pavlov Shiderov (National Guarantee Fund / Bulgaria), Jean-Claude Depoisier (SOCAMA / France) and Adelio Ferrari (Assoconfidi / Italy) were elected for the first time.

The new President of AECM is Bernhard Sagmeister who took over from José Fernando Figueiredo (SPGM / Portugal) who was AECM's President from 2007 till 2015. Since July 2009 Bernhard Sagmeister is Managing Director of Austria's Federal Promotional Bank "Austria Wirtschaftsservice GmbH" (aws) and of the ERP-Funds (European Recovery Program). Furthermore, he chairs the "aws Venture Funds" and Austria's "National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development" (NFTE). Bernhard Sagmeister draws on over 20 years of professional experience in the financial and banking industry. From 1994 to 2003 Bernhard Sagmeister held various management positions at Kommunalkredit, until he became CEO of Kommunalkredit Public Consulting (KPC) in 2003. Likewise, he has been Executive Director of Austria's "Environmental and Water Management Fund" for over 6 years. In addition, he gained 3 years of international experience during his posting as CEO at Kommunalkredit Public Consulting in Russia. Being a graduate of Vienna's University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (MSc. – Environmental Engineering and Water Management) Bernhard Sagmeister was assigned at different consulting firms, responsible for projects related to structural engineering and urban water management.

AECM now has 4 Vice-Presidents: Jean-Claude Depoisier and Adelio Ferrari have this function for the first time whereas Guy Selbherr has been Vice-President since 2007 and Pedro Pisonero Pérez has had this function since 2014. Furthermore Bernard

Jehin continues to be Secretary of the Board and Treasurer, as he has been since 2011.

### **About AECM**

AECM has 41 member organizations operating in 20 EU Member States as well as in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Serbia and Turkey. Its members are mutual, private sector guarantee schemes as well as public institutions, which are either guarantee funds or Development banks with a guarantee division. They all have in common the mission of providing loan guarantees for SME who have an economically sound project but cannot provide sufficient bankable collateral. In 2014, AECM member organizations had a total guarantee volume in portfolio of over € 79 billion and issued a total of over € 26 billion in new guarantees.

AECM represents the political interest of its member organizations both towards the European Institutions, such as the European Commission, the European Parliament and Council, as well as towards other, multilateral bodies, among which the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Investment Fund (EIF), the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), the World Bank, etc. It deals primarily with issues related to state aid regulation relevant for guarantee schemes within the internal market, to European support programs and to prudential supervision.

More information is available on the AECM web-site at: [www.aecm.eu](http://www.aecm.eu).

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