

Frank Beckx appointed managing director of essenscia vlaanderen

Brussels, 21 November 2013 – *On 1 January 2014 Frank Beckx will become the new Managing Director of essenscia vlaanderen, the Federation of Chemistry and Life Sciences Industries in Flanders. The decision was made yesterday by the Board of Directors of essenscia vlaanderen. Frank Beckx (age 33) is at present spokesman for essenscia and will take over from Frans Dieryck (age 62) who has been at the head of essenscia vlaanderen for 8 years. Frans Dieryck will continue to be involved in the chemical sector in the years to come as chairman of the Flanders Innovation Hub for Sustainable Chemistry (FISCH), a non profit organisation aiming to accelerate the sustainable transition of the sector. The change in Managing Director was announced yesterday evening during the annual essenscia vlaanderen event in the presence of the Flemish Minister-President Kris Peeters and numerous company managers and stakeholders.*



Frank Beckx was born in Bree in 1980. He graduated in law at the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) and started his career as a counsellor in the cabinet of the Flemish Minister Marino Keulen, becoming the latter's spokesman at the age of 24. From 2005 to 2007, Frank Beckx was spokesman for Vice-Minister-President Fientje Moerman who was then in charge of Economy, Innovation and Foreign Trade in the Flemish government. He joined essenscia in 2008, where his experience in ministerial cabinets was particularly useful in his new role as Head of Communication & Public Affairs.

The President of essenscia vlaanderen, Patrick Van Acker, explains the choice made by the Board of Directors as follows: *"With Frank Beckx, essenscia vlaanderen has chosen the line of continuity. Over the last few years, he has already played an important part in the modernisation of essenscia. The Board of Directors is convinced that with his strong personality geared to results and his dynamic character he is the ideal person to ensure the development of essenscia vlaanderen to enable it to become one of the leading employers' federations in Flanders. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Frans Dieryck for his valuable contribution and know-how at the service of our member companies. Under his direction, essenscia vlaanderen has been a pioneer in a large number of projects and he has enabled us to establish bridges between the sector and the authorities."*

Frank Beckx is delighted to receive this appointment: *"It is really an honour and a recognition to take over from an experienced man such as Frans Dieryck and, with a strong team, to build on the work he has achieved. In the present economic situation, our central themes will, more than ever before, be economic growth and employment. The prosperity of our region*

Further information:

Frank Beckx, spokesman essenscia, tel. +32 2 238 97 08, gsm +32 476 80 94 74, fbeckx@essenscia.be

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will, to a large extent, depend on industrial production allied with innovative research. The chemistry, plastics and life sciences sector is now the driving force behind Flemish industry as regards exports, innovation and added value as well as for investment. At the same time, it must face the challenge of pressure from international developments. I am very happy to take up these challenges together with our companies, the authorities and our numerous partners and to contribute in this way to the development of a brilliant future for our industry."

Corine Petry, who has been working for two years in the communications team, will succeed Frank Beckx as Head of Communications. The selection procedure to recruit a new communication counsellor has already begun.

About essenscia vlaanderen

essenscia vlaanderen brings together 450 companies in the chemistry, plastics, pharmacology and life sciences sector, which has a turnover of 43 billion euros and directly employs 60,500 people. It is therefore one of the largest sectors on the Flemish industrial scene. It represents 25% of the total turnover of manufacturing industry. With one third of total exports, the chemistry sector leads exports in Flanders. Every year, the companies federated in essenscia invest 1.6 billion euros in Research and Development (R&D).

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