

Press Release

14 September 1999

Board and top management changes at Union Minière

Appointment to UM Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Union Minière Group has asked Jean-Luc DEHAENE to join the Board as from 1 October 1999.

Jean-Luc Dehaene has accepted this proposal.

Jean-Luc Dehaene was Prime Minister of Belgium from 7 March 1992 until 12 July 1999. Prior to this, he was Minister for Social Affairs and Institutional Reforms (from 1981 to 1988) and Minister for Traffic and Institutional Reforms (from 1988 to 1992). During this latter term of office he was also Deputy Prime Minister.

UM Board has proposed Mr Dehaene for strategic reasons. Particularly at a time when the Group is adapting to a more global economy and is focusing its activities on international markets, Mr Dehaene's world-wide reputation and experience are of decisive importance.

Organisation at the top

At the initiative of the Chairman of the Board the succession plan at the top of the Group was discussed at the Board meeting of 14 September 1999. The decision was also taken to set up a Strategy Committee of the Board.

The Chairman expressed a wish to stand down at the next Shareholders' meeting in May 2000. He agreed to stay on as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the Strategy Committee.

Karel Vinck, Chief Executive Officer, will be proposed as Executive Chairman of the Board. A new CEO will be appointed. The Board agreed that Thomas Leysen, currently Executive Vice-President, will be proposed to succeed Karel Vinck as CEO. These changes are scheduled to be implemented after the next Shareholders' meeting in May 2000.

