

# PRESS RELEASE

## New chairman VNCI

The Hague, 2 June 2010 – **Werner Fuhrmann is the new chairman of the Association of the Dutch Chemical Industry (VNCI). The general assembly of members concurred with the committee's proposal today. He succeeds Jan Zuidam who was chairman since June 2007. Werner Fuhrmann (57) is the managing director of AkzoNobel Industrial Chemicals and has been vice-chairman of the VNCI since June 2007.**

Following his economic studies at the University of Mainz (Germany) Fuhrmann took up employment in 1979 with the accountant service of the then Akzo in the German Wuppertal. He then went on to fulfill various functions in the financial services section of the fibres division in both Germany and in the United States. In 1991, he was appointed Financial Director of the Salt & Basic Chemicals division, and in 1993 Financial Director of the then newly formed AkzoNobel Chemicals Group.

In 2000, Fuhrmann was given general management responsibilities for AkzoNobel's worldwide activities in the field of Chelates & Sulphur products. He was appointed general manager of AkzoNobel's Industrial Chemicals business unit in April 2005. This business unit, which has its headquarters in Amersfoort, is active in the fields of energy, salt, Chlor-Alkali and derivative products. In addition to this he is responsible within AkzoNobel for country-specific business in the Netherlands.

Fuhrmann is furthermore a member of the management committee of Euro Chlor and a member of the board of Cefic, the European Chemical Industry Council.

The objective of the VNCI is to provide optimal conditions for the operation and growth of the chemical sector in the Netherlands and to promote the quality of the sector. The chemical sector has a trade surplus of € 38 billion and accounts for approximately 7% of the employment, 19% of the production, 19% of the export, 19% of the investments and 24% of the research and development expenditure within Dutch industry.

**Note for the editorial staff, not for publication:**

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