

New CEO at Etex in 2015

Paul Van Oyen takes over from Fons Peeters after his retirement

Brussels, 29 August 2014 – **On 1 January 2015, a new leader will take the helm of Etex. Fons Peeters will retire at the end of the year after a successful career of 41 years in the building materials group, four of which as CEO. Paul Van Oyen, currently Head of Division Promat, will take over his role.**

Etex, the international building materials group with market leading companies such as Eternit and Siniat, employs around 17,500 people. Fons Peeters joined the group in 1973 as Product Manager, dedicating his whole professional career to Etex, and was appointed CEO in 2011. Under his leadership, Etex initiated a strategic change process in order to grow from a financial holding into a strong industrial group, with companies increasingly collaborating with each other and focussing more on creating synergies. It was also Fons Peeters who was the driving force behind the acquisition and integration of Siniat, enabling Etex to start playing a major role in the dry construction segment.

On 31 December 2014, Fons Peeters will officially retire from his role as CEO. *“On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank Fons Peeters for his immense dedication during his long career at Etex,”* says Chairman of the Board Jean-Louis de Cartier de Marchienne. *“His exceptional guidance proved to be an important added value for our company and ought to be an inspiration to all of us, since he helped shape Etex as we know it today.”*

Paul Van Oyen takes the wheel

On 1 January 2015, Paul Van Oyen will take up Fons Peeters’s function. Before joining Etex, he worked several years as a researcher and technologist. His career at Etex spans 24 years, during which period he gained both expertise and experience in different regions and different divisions of the company. Business Development Manager and head of the Eastern European business are some of the past roles of Paul Van Oyen. He has been developing Promat, Etex’s high-performance insulation and passive fire protection division, since 2011.

Paul Van Oyen is appointed until the end of 2021 with the mission of pursuing further Etex’s ambitious long-term strategy which focuses on both internal and external growth. Jean-Louis de Cartier de Marchienne explains: *“In order to trigger organic growth, Etex will maintain its capital expenditure programme with yearly investments of about 200 million euro. At the same time, the group will further reduce its debt, aiming at a debt ratio below 2, which should open up future growth possibilities.”* And the chairman concludes: *‘In light of these ambitious plans, the Board of Directors and Etex’s 17,500 employees wish Paul Van Oyen every success in guiding Etex on a path of continuous growth.’*



About Etex

Etex is a Belgian industrial group that is specialised in manufacturing and marketing building materials. Its four core businesses are: cladding and building boards in fibre cement and plaster, roofing materials, passive fire protection and high performance insulation, and ceramic floor and wall tiles. In Belgium, apart from its headquarters, Etex has three production sites and two R&D centres.

With about 17,500 employees operating on 119 production sites in 45 countries and with an annual turnover of more than 3 billion euro, Etex is an international player in sustainable building materials and solutions. For more information: www.etexgroup.com.

More information

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