

Claude Hauser, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Federation of Migros Cooperatives, elected new Chairman of CIES – The Food Business Forum

CIES – The Food Business Forum announced the election, effective today, of **Claude Hauser, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Federation of Migros Cooperatives**, Switzerland, as its new chairman. He will hold the position for the next two years. His main goal will be to actively facilitate the definition of common positions on selected industry issues in the global food business.

Claude Hauser remarked “CIES is in a strategically critical position both to support the existing framework of lobbyists and to support our efforts, as individual businesses, to act. CIES’ activities such as the Global Food Safety and the Food Business in Society Initiatives are concrete examples of how companies in the food industry are increasingly working together to speak with one voice.”

During his tenure, **Pierre-Olivier Beckers, outgoing Chairman and CEO of the Delhaize Group**, developed the strategic positioning of the organisation and strengthened the CIES network across more than 50 countries. Mr Beckers commented, “I am delighted that one of Europe’s most respected retailers, with a long-standing history of excellence will be taking over the reins of this global platform of top-level food retailers and manufacturers. I am also very pleased to announce that the CIES Board of Directors will be significantly strengthened by the arrival of four new members”:

- **Kenneth Bengtsson, President and CEO, ICA AB, Sweden,**
- **Steven Esom, Managing Director, Waitrose, United Kingdom**
- **Bill McEwan, President and CEO, Sobeys Inc., Canada**
- **Sean Summers, CEO, Pick’n Pay Retailers, South Africa**

Claude Hauser



Claude Hauser attended the Collège Calvin in Geneva, gained a degree in business administration at the University of Geneva, then an MBA at IMD in Lausanne. He completed his postgraduate training at Columbia University in New York and at Stanford University California.

Having started at Migros Geneva in 1967, Claude Hauser became the Managing Director of this cooperative in 1976. He was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Migros Group in Zurich in 2000.

Federation of Migros Cooperatives (www.migros.ch)

Migros, the largest retailer organisation in Switzerland, is a Federation of ten regional cooperatives, 1,9 million members and 80,000 employees. The company, diversified and vertically integrated, is operating a dozen of manufacturing plants, 600 multiformat supermarkets, a chain of department stores, a gas station network, an international travel organisation and a bank. The total sales at the end of 2003 achieved Euro 13 billion. With its engagement in cultural and social issues, Migros allocates 1% of its sales to its non-business cultural scheme.

CIES – The Food Business Forum – serves the CEOs and senior management of 175 retailer and 175 supplier members companies and their subsidiaries in over 150 countries. CIES offers a neutral platform for knowledge and networking and helps its members to orchestrate positions and to develop tools on key strategic and practical issues affecting the food business.

Press contact:

Sophie Lavagne
CIES – The Food Business Forum
Phone: (+33) 1 44 69 99 34
Fax: (+33) 1 44 69 99 39
e-mail: s.lavagne@ciesnet.com

On-site during the Summit:

Sophie Lavagne
CIES – The Food Business Forum
Portable phone: + 33 6 60 87 22 62