

Republic of Austria honours Christian Wellner with prestigious award

Gold Medal of Honour for services to the Republic of Austria

Düsseldorf, September 20, 2019 - Christian Wellner, Managing Member of the Executive Committee of Düsseldorf-based Gesamtverband der Aluminiumindustrie (GDA) has received a prestigious award: Austrian Federal President Alexander Van der Bellen has honoured him with the Goldenes Ehrenzeichen (Gold Medal of Honour) for services to the Republic of Austria. With this high distinction, the Federal President is honouring Christian Wellner's special services to the Austrian and European aluminium industries.

Roman Stiftner, managing director of the Austrian non-ferrous metals trade association Fachverbands der Nichteisenindustrie in der Wirtschaftskammer Österreich (WKO) justifies the application for the award: "Christian Wellner's contribution to the Austrian aluminium sector is outstanding and invaluable."

The atmosphere of trust between the Austrian and German aluminium associations has led to numerous joint cross-border projects in the aluminium sector. In addition, Christian Wellner has promoted the good cooperation between the German, Swiss and Austrian aluminium associations under the 'D-A-CH Alliance for Aluminium' banner, which has sent out a clear signal to the rest of the world concerning the strong bond between the three German-speaking aluminium associations. "Christian Wellner has thus laid the foundation stone and provided the basis for collaboration and synergies between the three aluminium associations so that they can continue to flourish in future via the D-A-CH alliance," explains Roman Stiftner.

"Furthermore, Christian Wellner has also promoted the European idea and has been strongly involved at European level," he adds. Together with other European aluminium associations, and within the framework of the European umbrella organisation European Aluminium, Mr Wellner called the European National Leaders Meeting into being in 2013. The very important exchange between all European aluminium associations takes place in this committee of experts.

About GDA:

Gesamtverband der Aluminiumindustrie (GDA) represents the sector interests of aluminium producing and processing companies in Germany, an industry whose economic significance is reflected in annual sales of 22 billion euros, generated by 66,000 employees. Based on the production of the German aluminium industry, some 96 per cent of all aluminium companies are members of the association.

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